Battle Angel Alita

Tears of an Angel

VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

TEARS OF AN ANGEL

A BATTLE ANGEL ALITA GRAPHIC NOVEL

STORY AND ART BY

YUKITO KISHIRO

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STORY AND ART BY YUKITO KISHIRO

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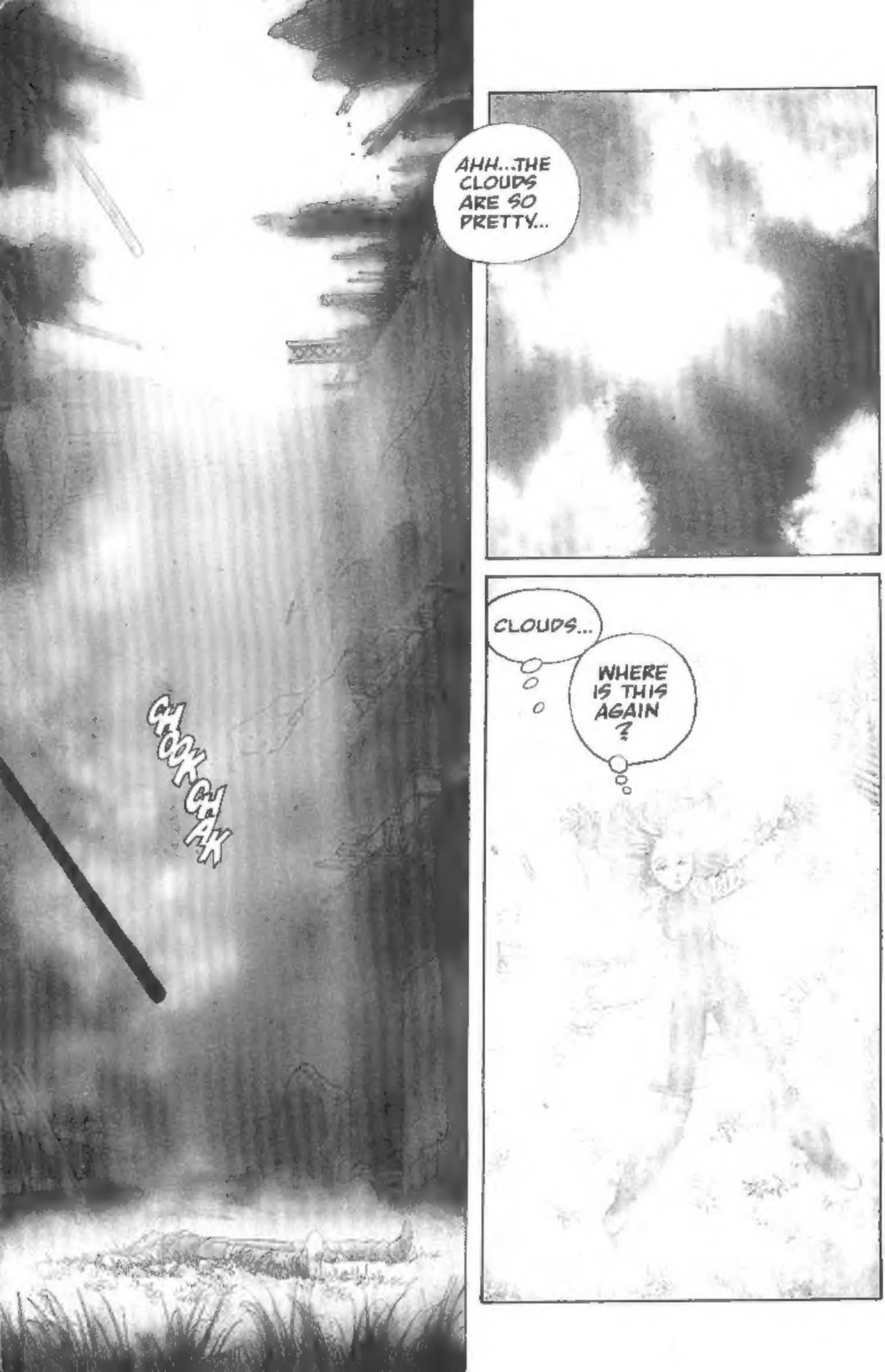
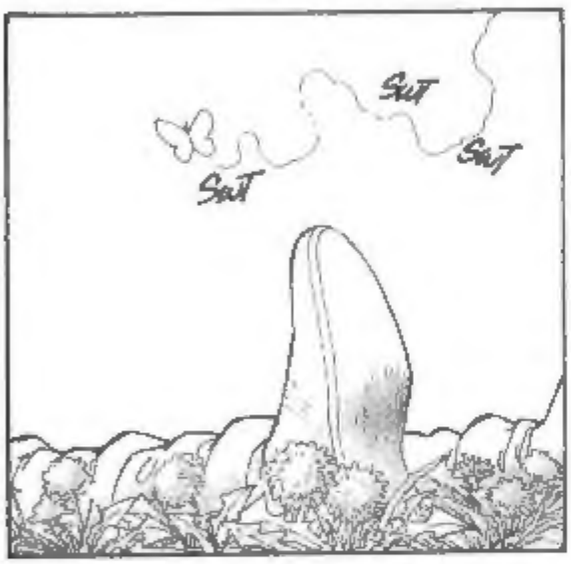
OUT OF BLUE SKY

Struggle 1: Running Wild


AHH...THE CLOUDS ARE SO PRETTY...
CLOUDS...
WHERE IS THIS AGAIN?
GUOOK GAAK

AND ME-- HOW DID I COME TO BE LYING HERE, IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ?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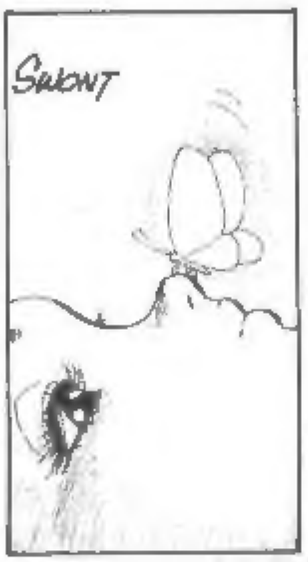

SWONT

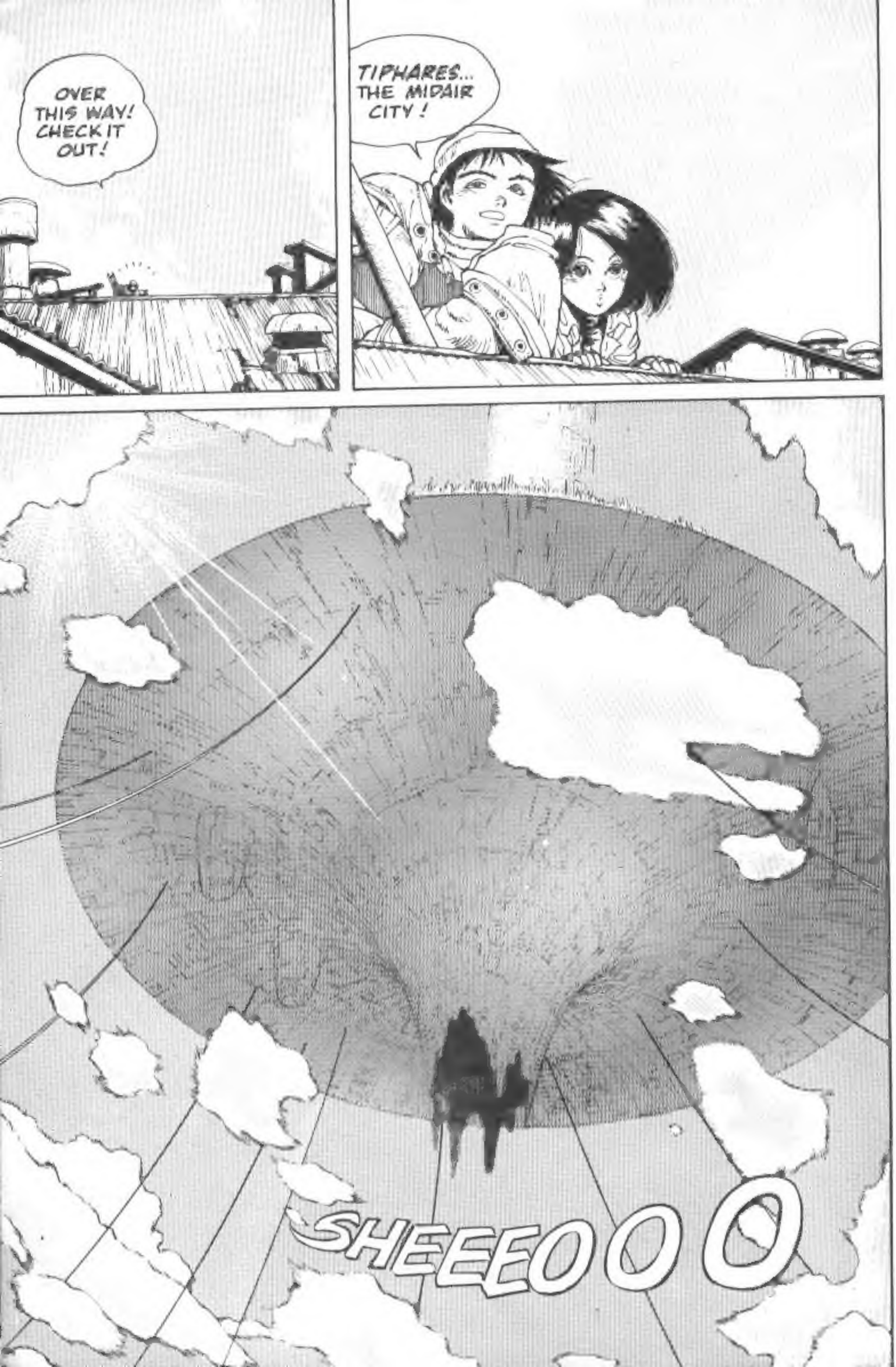
HA HA HA HA HA HA
?

WHO...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE ?

YOU KNOW, I WAS JUST WONDERING THE SAME THING MYSELF.
AH, HA, HA, HA, HA!
STOP LAUGHING AND GIVE ME A HAND UP!
OH!
NO PROBLEM, LADY.
HEY!
EEEEEEE!
YAK!
KAKREK
FWUMP
FWUSH

OUCH! HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH, ANYHOW !?
HMM.
SWAK
WAIT A SECOND !
I DON'T HAVE TO HIDE THEM! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF!
HA, HA...
I COULD REALLY GET USED TO THIS!
FWOP
HEY! LET'S GO UP TO THE ROOF !
YOU CAN SEE FOR DAYS FROM UP THERE!


OVER THIS WAY! CHECK IT OUT!
TIPHARES... THE MIDAIR CITY!
SHEEEOOO

SOMETIMES I JUST SIT HERE AND STARE...
...AND IF I DO IT LONG ENOUGH, I START TO ALMOST BELIEVE I COULD FLOAT UP THERE, YOU KNOW?
I BET LIFE UP THERE IS GREAT, DON'T YOU?
I COME HERE A LOT-- TO JUST SIT AND WATCH. IT'S MY FAVORITE...
I'VE BEEN RUNNING WILD IN THIS OLD FACTORY SINCE I WAS JUST A KID.
HEE, HEE.
WHAT-- WHAT IS IT ?!
JUST LOOKING AT YOU... AT YOUR FACE.
WHOA! THAT AREA'S WEAK THERE, SO BE CAREFUL.
AH...
...FAMILIAR-- I... FELL FROM HERE...

OUCH...
TH-THAT'S RIGHT. I CAME TO THIS ABANDONED FACTORY.
..CHASING BOUNTIES! GOT MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR..
SLASH
YOW!
DAMN THAT'S A SUPER FREAKY BITCH!
TONK
MEGIL THE PHARMACIST! CORNERED YOU AT LAST!

YOUR DOPE SLINGING HAS DONE SO MUCH DAMAGE...
I THINK IT'S TIME YOU GOT YOUR SHARE!
B-BOSS...
HMPH... ANY EXPERIMENT REQUIRES GUINEA PIGS.
HERE--LET ME SHOW YOU THE RESULT OF MY RESEARCH.
TOKA TOKA
SLA-CHIK
B-BOSS, THAT MEDICINE ISN'T--!?
SKLOCH
GAAA HA!

*LYCANTHROPAZINE [illegible] THE [illegible] PERSON [illegible] THE BESTIAL [illegible] THE BELIEF THAT ONE HAS BECOME A BEAST THAT THE BODY CAN [illegible] TRANSFORM BECOMES [illegible] TO THE ANIMAL

AROOOO

SHASH
RAHR!
SKLUNG
THUMP
YAAAH
SKEAK
WHUD
HA!
FWAAA

FWASH
HMPH! SOME WEREWOLF.
...AN EASY VICTORY.
BONK
SKRESH
OOPS
KATONK
WHUMP

TUT - THAT WAS REALLY CARELESS
I WONDER IF I'M IN A SLUMP
THIS IS INCREDIBLE !
HEY! COME CHECK THIS OUT!
THIS IS REALLY SOMETHING THEY RE ALL DEAD
IT'S LIKE A DINOSAUR WENT WILD DOWN HERE
A DINOSAUR ?

YOU GOT ANY IDEAS?
TH-THESE WERE PROBABLY BAD GUYS, YOU KNOW-- KILLED BY A HUNTER-WARRIOR?
DOUBT IT-- A HUNTER-WARRIOR ONLY KILLS FOR BOUNTY..
TEK
.. AND HE'D NEED THE HEADS TO EXCHANGE FOR CHIPS.
HMM... FRESH KILL, ONLY A FEW HOURS OLD.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME KIND OF RACKET WHILE I WAS NAPPING.
HMM! WELL, WHATEVER...
...HAND ME THAT TOOLBOX THERE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
JUST PRYING OUT THE BACKBONE.

BACKBONE !?
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'LL BRING IN A GOOD PRICE AT THE PARTS MARKET
OUCH-- TIGHT FIT!
BONK
IN THE SCRAP YARD, THERE ARE PLENTY OF CYBORG PARTS, AND IF YOU'RE NOT TOO PICKY, YOU CAN GET THEM CHEAP.
BUT THE ONE THING IN SHORT SUPPLY IS BACKBONES-- YOU KNOW, SPINAL COLUMNS. GUESS THEY CAN'T MAKE ARTIFICIAL SPINAL COLUMNS.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT'S LIKE STEALING!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN-- CAN'T !?
IT'S JUST LYING HERE, RIGHT? SAME AS ONE THAT'S BEEN THROWN AWAY! NO SIN.
I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY WAY-- YOU THINK I CAN WORRY ABOUT APPEARANCES !?
TONK
TONK

!?
SKRAANCH
URUOO!
CHAK
TAK
SPAK
WHAT THE HELL !?
OH, NO-- NOT STILL ALIVE !?
WELL, I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
SHAAA

LOOK OUT!
HUH?
FWAP
OH
EEK! I'M FRIGHTENED!
THIS WAY! I'LL PROTECT YOU!
WHUMP
SHASH
URU GAAA!
<QUIT JOKING AROUND!>
TWUMP
EEEK!
HUH?!
FWACK

CHONK
HEH!

FWAP
SKUP

SSSS
SKEKKA
OUCH!
AHH!
PLOP PLOP PLOP
uff
hff
DAMMIT, FURBALL--WE'RE NOT JUST GONNA LIE HERE AND BE KILLED!
TANG
YAAAH!
SPLURSH

WHOA...
FWUPP
TUMP
ALL RIGHT!
HEH, HEH. HA, HA!
YEKAIEX
I'M HUGO.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'M ALITA
ALITA, HUH? SOUNDS LIKE A WILDFLOWER OR SOMETHING..
WELL, I LIKE IT A FRIEND GAVE IT TO ME.
IT'S A GOOD NAME. I BET YOU HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS...
.....
THANKS.
BYE, NOW.

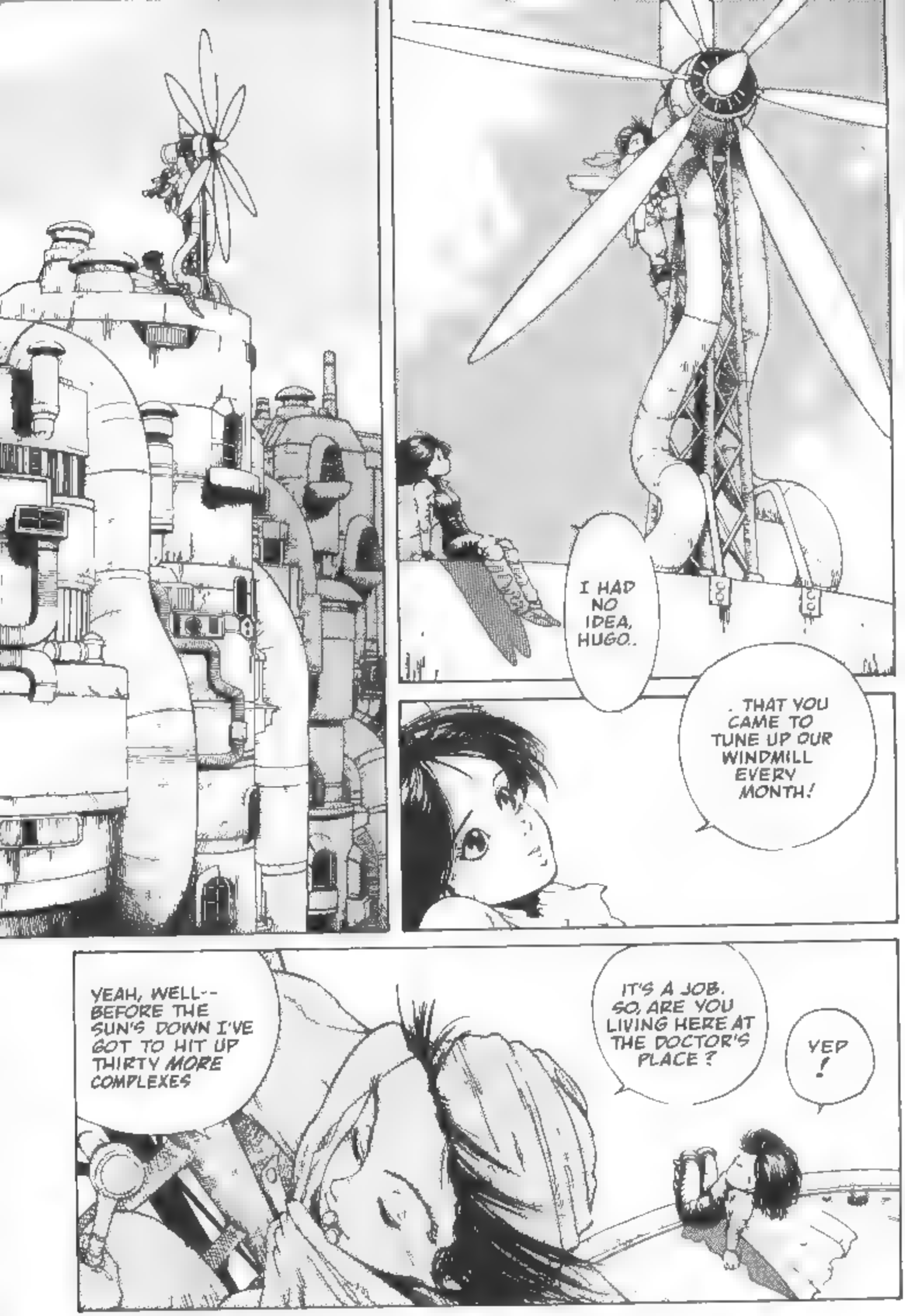
HUGO, HUH?
I WONDER IF WE'LL MEET AGAIN
HEE HEE
SIR, WE'LL CHANGE YOUR OIL FOR YOU.
TOP-GRADE SILICON OIL WITH TEFLON.
AND WE'LL THROW IN A BODY WAX FOR FREE.

HMM, THAT MIGHT BE JUST WHAT I NEED TODAY
YES, SIR! ABSOLUTELY!
THIS WAY, PLEASE, SIR.
MY SHOULDERS HAVE BEEN REALLY SQUEAKING RECENTLY. TERRIBLE...
SQUEEE
AH, YES-- WELL, YOU'RE LOW ON OIL, THAT'S ALL.
NOW, I'LL DO THIS VERY CAREFULLY.
CHIK
POIK
HEAD
GEH!
KWAM
RIGHT
DANJI, KEEP A LOOKOUT!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU--!?
TAK
SORRY, MAN! BUT AT LEAST WE DON'T WANT YOUR LIFE.
CHOKKA TOKALA
W-WAIT... I...
EEE!
WHACK
SKRICK
WELL?
NO SWEAT.
THIS'LL GET FIFTY THOUSAND EASY.
THIE-E-E-E-F! GIVE BACK MY BACKBO-O-O-NE!
TETCH TETCH

BRING-A-LONG
CALLING
HELLO, IDO'S REPAIR SHOP
THERE'S A PERSON DYING IN AN ALLEY IN BLOCK 26. SAVE HIM!
SLAM
IT ALWAYS FEELS GOOD AFTER YOU'VE HELPED SAVE SOMEONE!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, YOU LOUSY VILLAIN?!
HEH, HEH, HEH...
AH, HA, HA, HA.

IRON MAIDEN
Struggle 2: Awakening Heart

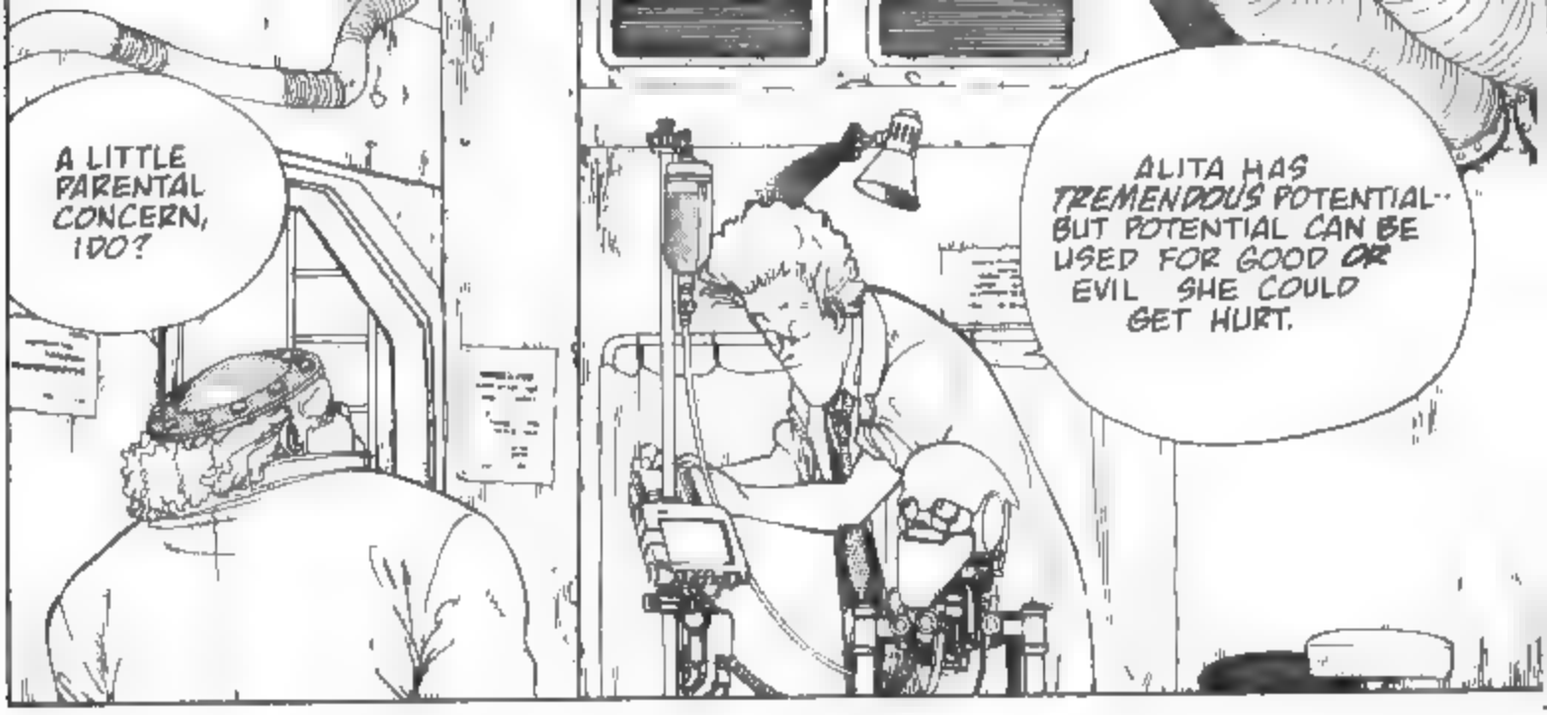

I HAD NO IDEA, HUGO..
. THAT YOU CAME TO TUNE UP OUR WINDMILL EVERY MONTH!
YEAH, WELL-- BEFORE THE SUN'S DOWN I'VE GOT TO HIT UP THIRTY MORE COMPLEXES
IT'S A JOB. SO, ARE YOU LIVING HERE AT THE DOCTOR'S PLACE?
YEP!

GOOD DEAL
.AS FOR ME, I'VE GOT TO SAVE UP A WHOLE LOT OF MONEY !
THEN I'M GOING TO TIPHARES !

AHH. I WISH THIS WOULD NEVER END..
..I COULD SIT HERE FOREVER LISTENING TO HUGO'S VOICE.

AND HIS EYES-- ALWAYS LOOKING AT THE SKY .
..I ENVY HIM.
SUCH A DISTANCE BETWEEN US. IF ONLY I COULD SHARE HIS WORLD!

LOOKS LIKE SPRING HAS COME FOR ALITA, DOESN'T IT?
HO, HO, HO!
IT'S NOT NICE TO EAVESDROP, GONZU.
EAVESDROP? ME? I'M JUST.
ADMIRING SPRING, THAT'S ALL!
ALITA SEEMS SO. SO SPARKLING RECENTLY
AND IF THIS IS THE REASON, WELL--THAT'S GREAT!
BUT YOU KNOW, GONZU. I'M WORRIED
NOT JEALOUS, ARE YOU?
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
I'M ALL IN FAVOR OF ANYTHING THAT BRINGS ALITA HAPPINESS--LOVE OR ANYTHING!
BUT I STILL WORRY...


A LITTLE PARENTAL CONCERN, IDO?
ALITA HAS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL-- BUT POTENTIAL CAN BE USED FOR GOOD OR EVIL SHE COULD GET HURT.

DOC, WILL I BE OPERABLE SOON?
SPINAL COLUMNS ARE SCARCE THESE DAYS. I HAVEN'T LOCATED ONE IN YOUR SIZE.
DAMN THOSE PUNKS THAT MUST BE WHY THEY STOLE MY BACKBONE--!
CHIK
CHOK
SPINAL COLUMN THEFT, EH? IT'S THE TREND THESE DAYS, ISN'T IT?

BLACK MARKET DEMAND IS UP FOR ALL ILLEGAL PARTS.
...AND THE FACTORY DOESN'T KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE SALE OF CYBORG PARTS, SO EVERYONE'S CASHING IN
YOUR POWER GENERATOR'S ALL SET, DOC IDO!
GREAT, HUGO!

GOT TIME FOR SOME TEA OR SOMETHING BEFORE YOU GO?
NAH-- TOO MUCH WORK LEFT TO DO.
.....
NEXT TIME!
THAT BOY'S A HARD WORKER-- A RARITY THESE DAYS, EH, IDO?
YEAH YOU'RE RIGHT
THWP
AM I HEARING THINGS?! THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE VOICE OF THE PUNK WHO ATTACKED ME!
AAHH HH
OH!
HUGO ♡

Sigh
SHE'S REALLY GOT IT BAD!

I DO.

DO YOU THINK HUGO COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH ME..
...EVEN THOUGH I'M A CYBORG?

THAT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
THAT'S RIGHT! IN THIS TOWN, BEING A CYBORG IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED!
SIGH

YO, KID. OVER HERE

YEAH-- WHAT'S UP, MISTER ?
THAT GIRL'S BAD NEWS, MAN FORGET ABOUT HER!
WHAT !?
THAT GIRL'S AN IRON MAIDEN- THE LAST GUY WHO PROPOSED TO HER WELL, HE'S NOT AROUND TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT HIMSELF.
GWAHAHAHA
BIG GUY, BUT HE WAS TORN TO PIECES NOT EVEN HIS ASHES REMAINED
WHY ARE YOU BLABBERING TO ME ABOUT HER?! I'M JUST DOING MY JOB!

HEH

ALITA I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE HUMILIATION YOU SUBJECTED ME TO AT "KANSAS." THE GREAT ZAPAN'S STRONG POINT IS HIS VINDICTIVENESS.
I'LL TASTE EVEN YOUR TEARS IN TIME!

RAMB RAMB RAMB

YAAA!!
SKKK
GLAGH
THOK
ALITA! ONE OF 'EM IS HEADING YOUR WAY!

SIGH

TONKA
KACH
?

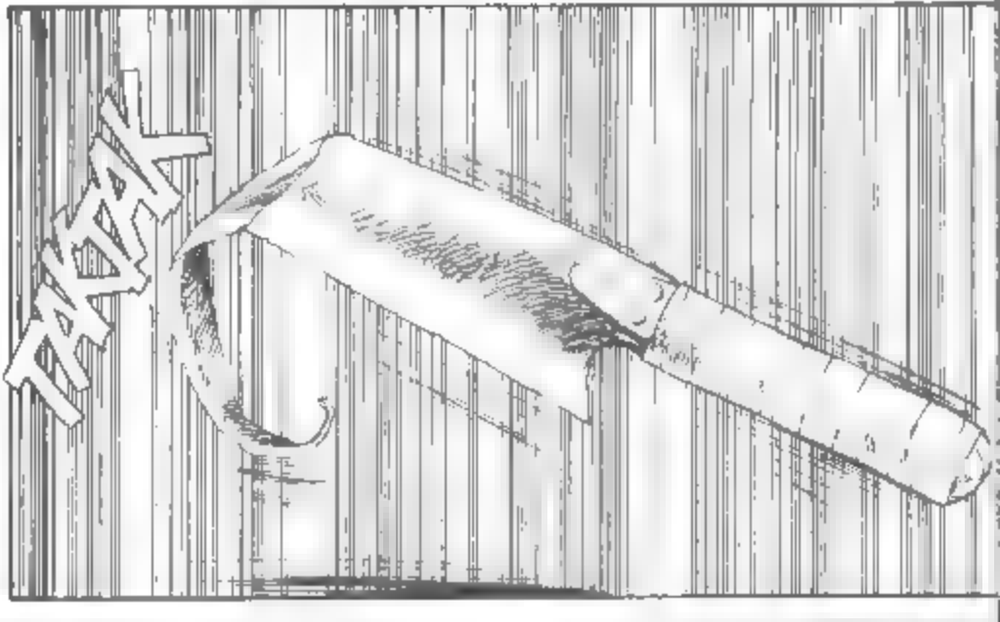
GAAH
SLK
AIEEEEE!
A
WOMAAAN!!

KAVAAA! KAKA KAKA KAKA!!
NO
STOP!
SLORK
HII!
HIEEEE!
AH!?
STOOSH

I ONLY MEANT TO SHAKE HIM OFF .
HOW FRAGILE..

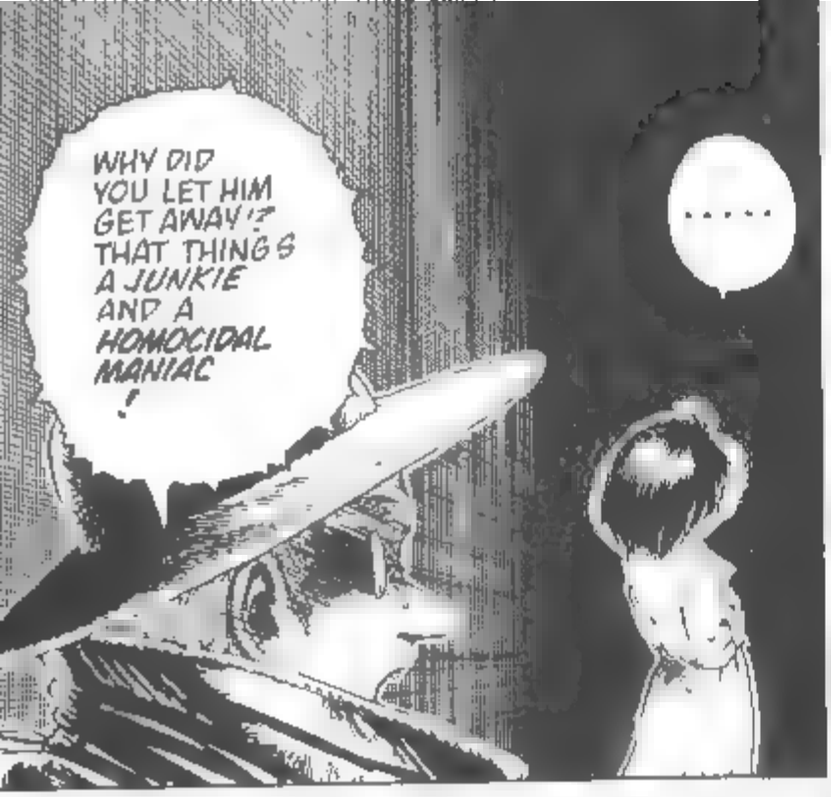
HIIYAAA
TONK

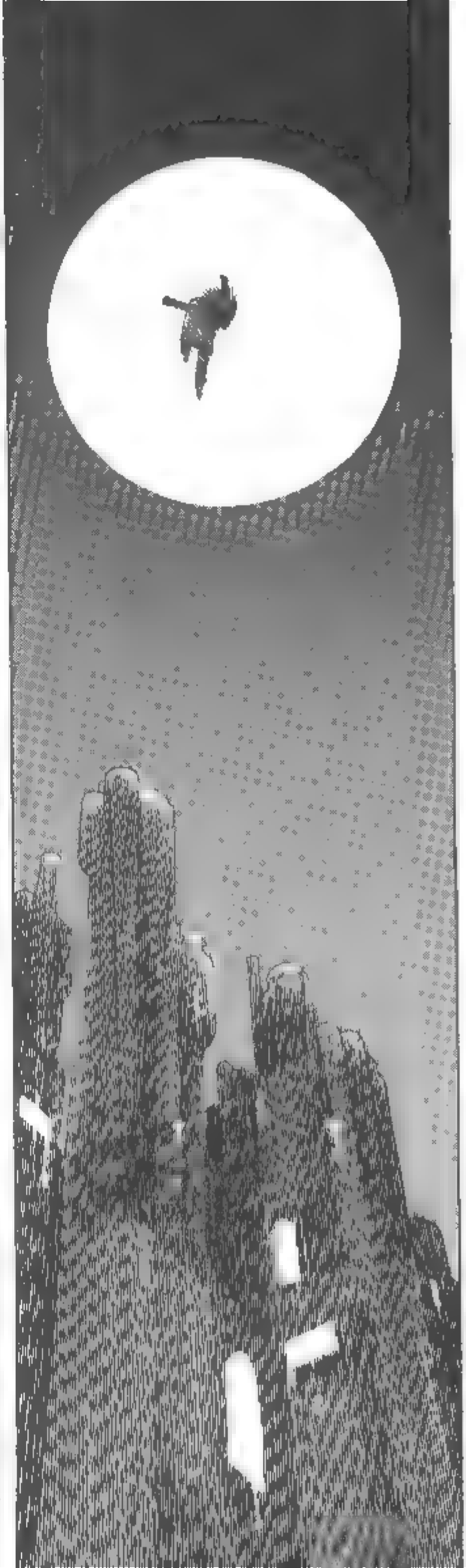
SKOOSH


TAKAA

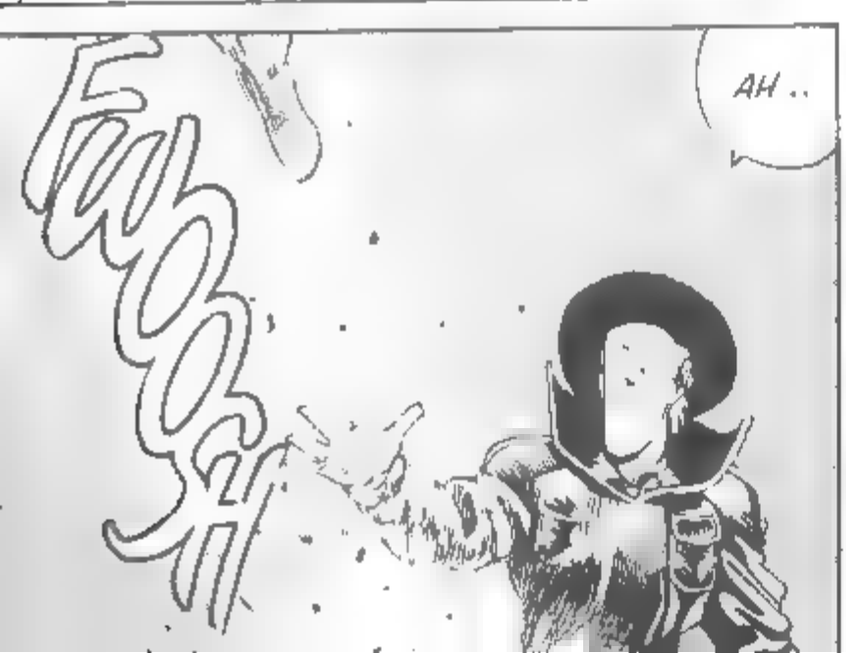
DIDN'T DO MORE THAN SCRATCH MY BODY
BUT THEN IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE BODY OF A HUMAN

WHAT HAPPENED, ALITA!
KRESH
GRAK


WHY DID YOU LET HIM GET AWAY!? THAT THING'S A JUNKIE AND A HOMOCIDAL MANIAC!
.....

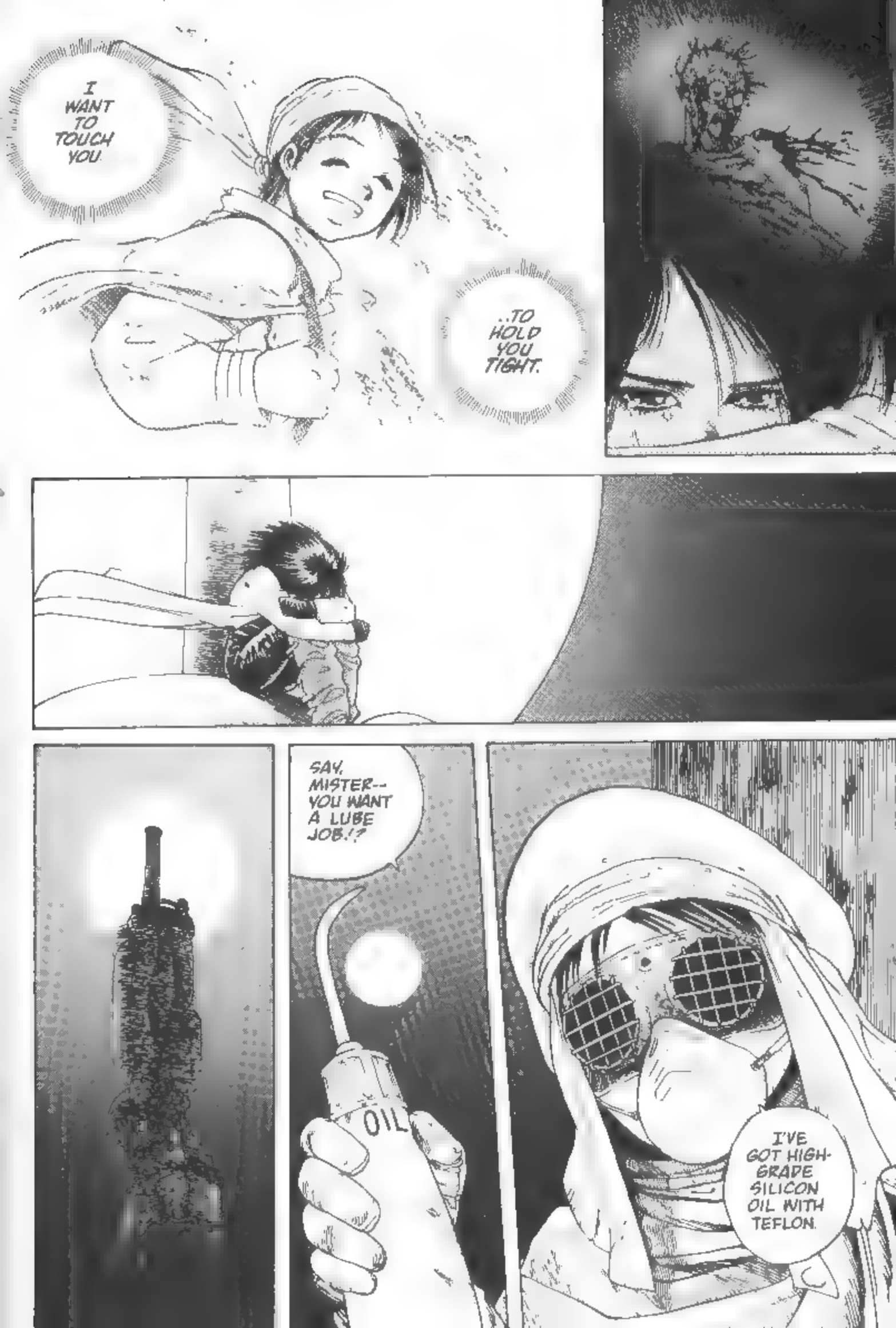


I WAS MOONSTRUCK, I GUESS. I'M SORRY!

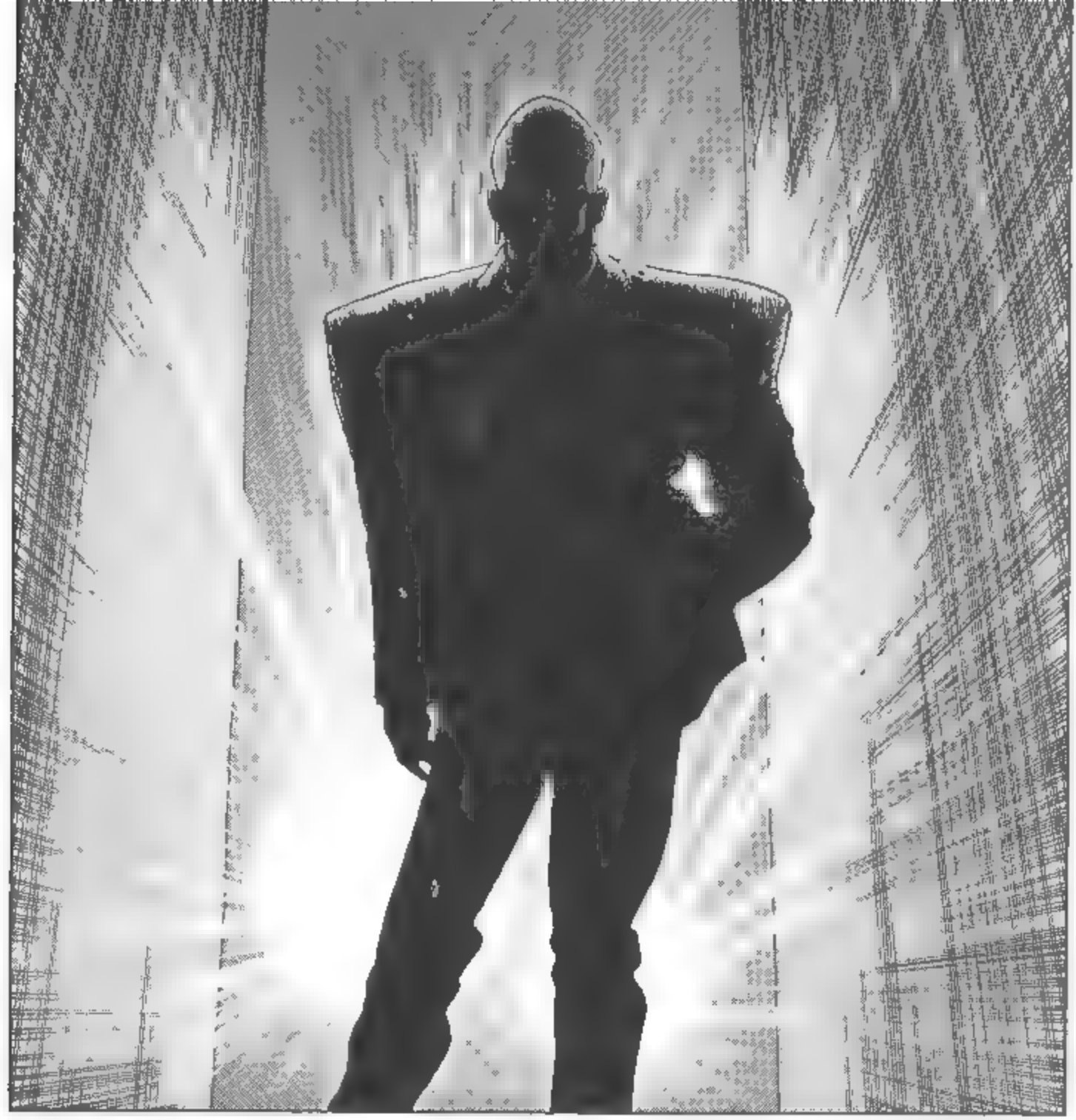

AH..
FWOOSH!!

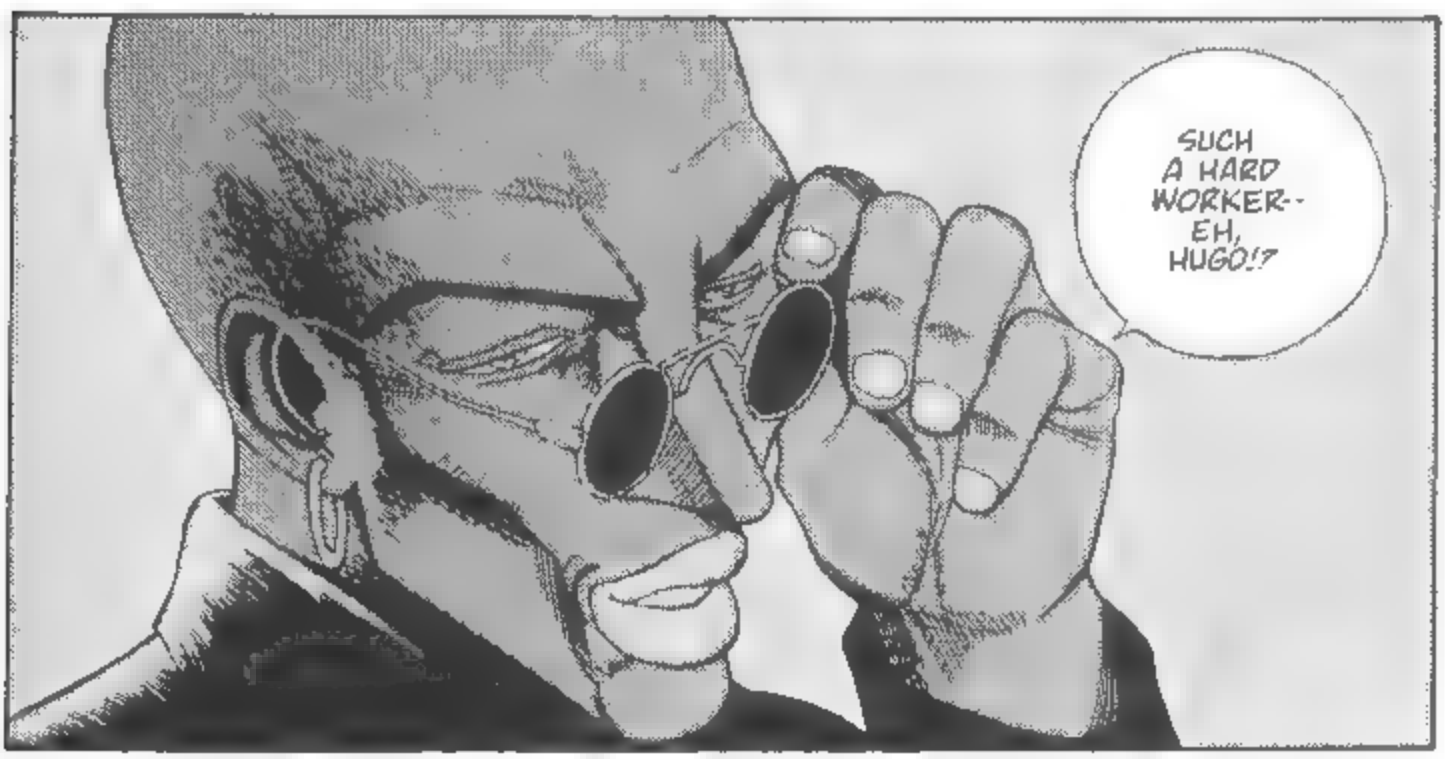
SNAK
I NEVER GAVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT BEFORE.
THAT THIS BODY OF MINE IS ARTIFICIAL.
IT'S NOT MY ORIGINAL BODY IT'S UNNATURAL
IT CAN MOVE FASTER THAN EVERYBODY ELSE IT CAN FIRE PLASMA AND SUCH
BUT IT'S NOT BUILT FOR FALLING IN LOVE!

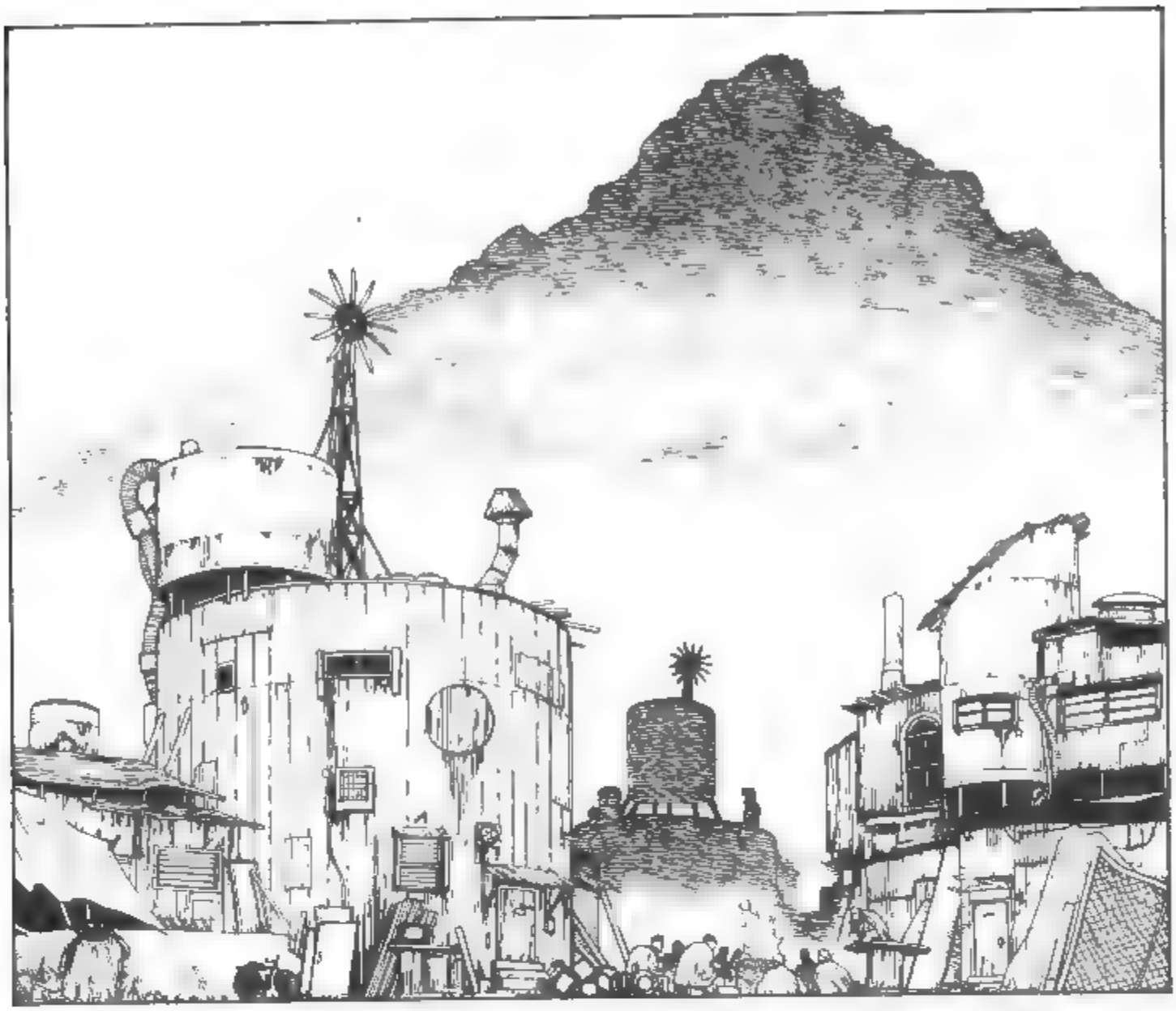
WHSSSH
GROUND CITIES ARE SO UGLY
WE'RE ALIKE, THE SCRAPYARD AND I
AN UNNATURAL EDIFICE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CRACKS BETWEEN STEEL AND STONE
BUT DWELLING ON IT WON'T CHANGE THINGS.
AND MY LIFE--I OWE THAT TO MACHINERY, TO ARTIFICE
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE WITH IT
HUGO


I WANT TO TOUCH YOU.
..TO HOLD YOU TIGHT.
SAY, MISTER-- YOU WANT A LUBE JOB!?
OIL
I'VE GOT HIGH-GRADE SILICON OIL WITH TEFLON.

CHOK
AAAGH!
SKSH SKP
Tup
!
WHO'S THERE !?




SUCH A HARD WORKER-- EH, HUGO!?



HA
HA
HA
Hugo
Hugo
WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THAT BOY OFF TO?

AND WITH SUCH A SWEET YOUNG THING WAITING FOR HIM--SINCE THE CRACK OF DAWN AT LEAST
FWA-HA
THAT HUGO'S A CLEVER ONE
IS HE WORKING NIGHTS, TOO?
HE THINKS IT'LL GET HIM TO TIPHARES
SAVING UP MONEY LIKE A MAN POSSESSED
WHAT FOOLISHNESS TO HONESTLY BELIEVE HE CAN GET TO TIPHARES.
THOSE BORN IN THE LOWER WORLD MUST LIVE THEIR WHOLE LIVES IN THE LOWER WORLD! IT'S AN UNSHAKABLE LAW!
BUT KIDS TODAY--THEY JUST DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE.
WELL, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I'VE HEARD THAT HUGO'S RUNNING WITH THE WRONG BUNCH OF PEOPLE
!
DELINQUENTS AND BLACK MARKET BROKERS--RUMOR HAS IT HE'S DOING SOME DANGEROUS WORK
SLURP
HE'S HEADED FOR TROUBLE, I TELL YOU

DANGEROUS WORK !?
MISS, YOU'VE GOT TO HURRY UP AND CAPTURE HUGO'S HEART!
Y-YES, SIR!
GET HOLD OF HIM GOOD-- AND WAKE HIM UP FROM THIS FOOLISH DREAM OF HIS!
FOOLISH DREAM
.. IS THAT WHAT IT IS.?
HMPH
AH WHAT'S THIS?

THAT MAN! IT'S VECTOR!
THE TOP DOG OF THE BLACK MARKET BROKERS WHO CONTROL THE SCRAPYARD'S ILLEGAL PARTS!
HMMM.
HEH!
WHAT THE WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UNGH.
HUGO!

WELL, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR ANSWER, HUGO
THWAK
UNH!
GLEAAGH
HE BOOZED YOU UP D.DN'T HE!?
HOLD .T, MISTER!
GAH
D-DON T BE STUPID
IF YOU DRAG HUGO DOWN TO YOUR DEPTHS...
...EVEN IF GOD FORGIVES IT, ALITA NEVER WILL!

SLAMASH
30
HUGO
OWWW... MY HEAD...IT HURTS..
HERE, HAVE SOME WATER
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR DRINKING ALCOHOL!
WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, HUGO.
HMPH! IT'S NOT LIKE I'M A KID!
I CAN BOOZE IT UP IF I WANT TO!
NOTHING BIG.

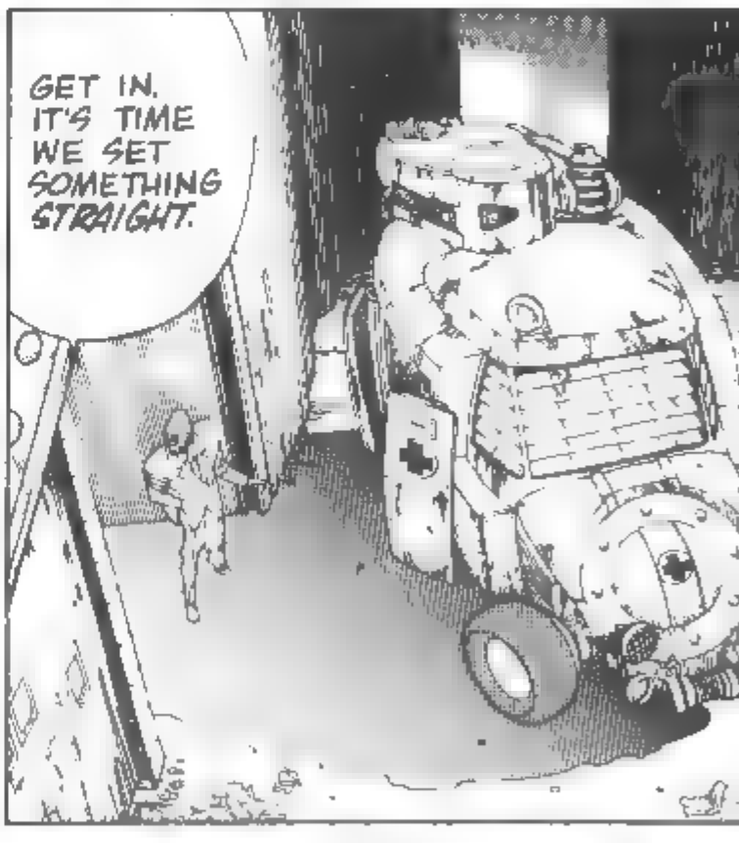
THAT LOWLIFE IN THE SHADES CAUGHT YOU OFF-GUARD, HUH?
NOTHING LIKE THAT. WE'VE GOT AN UNDERSTANDING.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY?
HEE HEE! I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED SOMEBODY TO LOOK AFTER YOU. FOR FREE, OF COURSE!
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED WASHED?
NO, BUT THANKS.

WOK
GYA!

SPLAK

Y-YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL HIM!
HMPH. HE HEARD YOUR NAME. WE COULDN'T RISK HIM WALKING AND TALKING

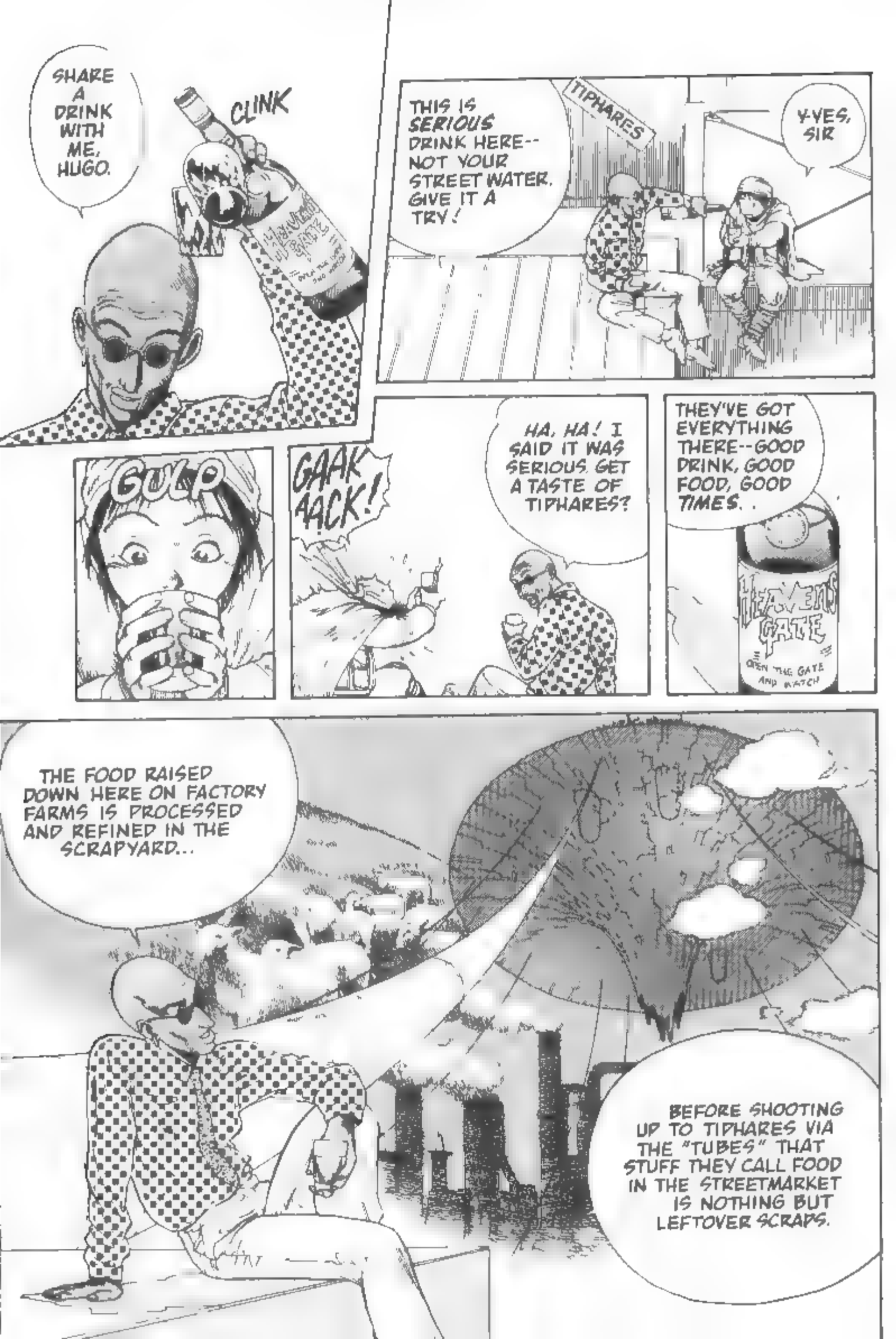
YOU WON'T LIVE LONG IF YOU DO YOUR WORK HALF-ASSED, HUGO.
THUD


GET IN. IT'S TIME WE SET SOMETHING STRAIGHT.

WHERE TO, MR VECTOR ?

THREE YEARS BACK.. I SAID TO YOU..
"GET ME TEN-THOUSAND CHIPS AND I'LL SEND YOU TO TIPHARES."
IN ANOTHER SIX MONTHS, YOU'LL HAVE EARNED A DECADE'S PAY IN JUST OVER THREE YEARS. I'M IMPRESSED!
WELL, A DESPERATE FOOL WILL ALWAYS FIND A WAY, I GUESS...
YOU PLAY PEOPLE WELL, HUGO--YOU'VE GOT ENERGY AND GUTS!
BUT BEYOND ALL THAT, YOU'RE LOYAL, FOCUSED..
I APPRECIATE YOU-- UNDERSTAND ?
YEAH, WELL.. SHUCKS..

FACTORY FRONT 242
SLAM
THIS . THIS IS A FACTORY WAREHOUSE WE CAN'T GO IN THERE, MR VECTOR!
HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG? COME ON, HUGO.
WASH
AHH!
WOW!
TH-THIS IS ALL FOOD HEADED FOR TIPHARES!
BDUM
BDUM
BDUM


SHARE A DRINK WITH ME, HUGO.
CLINK
THIS IS SERIOUS DRINK HERE-- NOT YOUR STREET WATER. GIVE IT A TRY!
TIPHARES
YVES, SIR
GULP
GAAK AACK!
HA, HA! I SAID IT WAS SERIOUS. GET A TASTE OF TIPHARES?
THEY'VE GOT EVERYTHING THERE--GOOD DRINK, GOOD FOOD, GOOD TIMES. .
THE FOOD RAISED DOWN HERE ON FACTORY FARMS IS PROCESSED AND REFINED IN THE SCRAPYARD...
BEFORE SHOOTING UP TO TIPHARES VIA THE "TUBES" THAT STUFF THEY CALL FOOD IN THE STREETMARKET IS NOTHING BUT LEFTOVER SCRAPS.

UNTIL NOW, THE "DECKMEN"-- THOSE CRAZY ROBOT SERVANTS OF TIPHARES-- MANAGED THE WHOLE TUBEWAY SUPPLY PROCESS...
...AND THERE'S BEEN NO ROOM FOR US BROKERS TO GET EVEN A TOEHOLD. BUT REORGANIZATION TIME IS HERE.
HMM...
THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE USING LOCALS, HIRED FROM THE SCRAPYARD TO MANAGE THINGS.
THIS IS OUR CHANCE!
I'VE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE THAT I GET HOLD OF SIX INTERMEDIATE ROUTES!
S-SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
I WANT TO LET YOU IN ON THE ACTION!
I WANT YOU TO TAKE ON ONE OF THE INTERMEDIATE ROUTES!

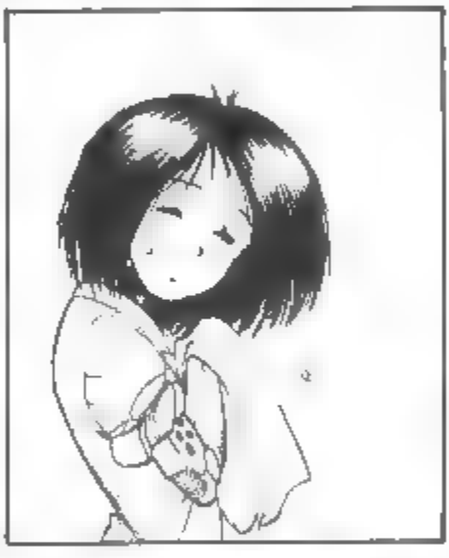
NO WAY!
REALLY...?
HEY LISTEN UP.
YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB THESE PAST THREE YEARS!
SAY YOU DO USE THAT MONEY TO GET TO TIPHARES--THEN WHAT YOU GONNA DO?
A BEGGAR IN THE TIPHAREAN STREETS? THAT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?!
POCKET A PIECE OF THAT TUBE ROUTE TO SELL ON THE BLACK MARKET AND YOU'VE GOT SOME BIG BUCKS!
YOU CAN HAVE THE GOOD DRINK, THE GOOD FOOD, THE GOOD TIMES--ALL HERE, IF YOU PLAY IT RIGHT!
THINK ABOUT IT, HUGO--REAL HARD!
IS TIPHARES A PLACE, HUGO--OR A DREAM?

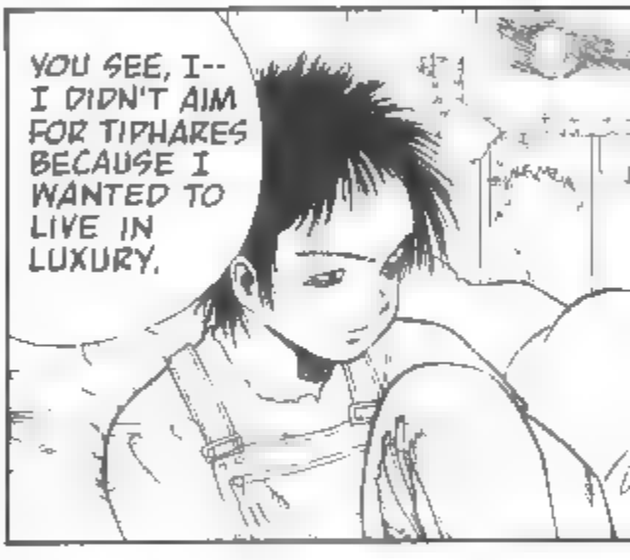
CHUKKITA
CHUKKITA
FWAP

hmm?
SSST

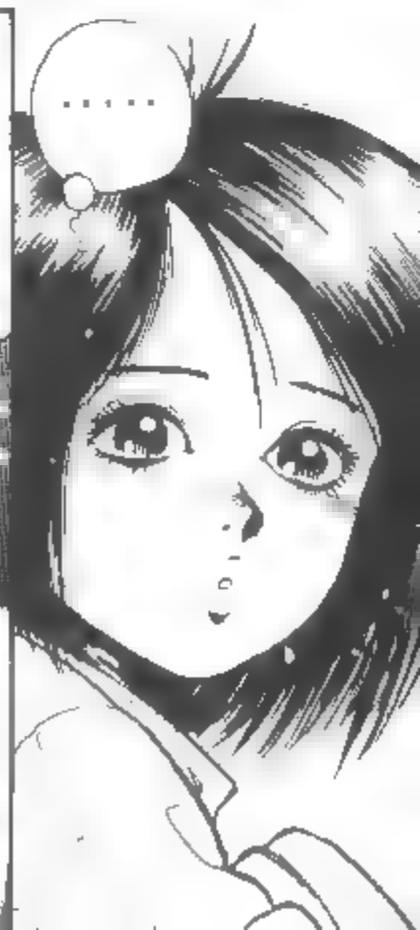
ALITA...

. DO-- DO YOU HAVE A DREAM ?




YOU SEE, I-- I DIDN'T AIM FOR TIPHARES BECAUSE I WANTED TO LIVE IN LUXURY.

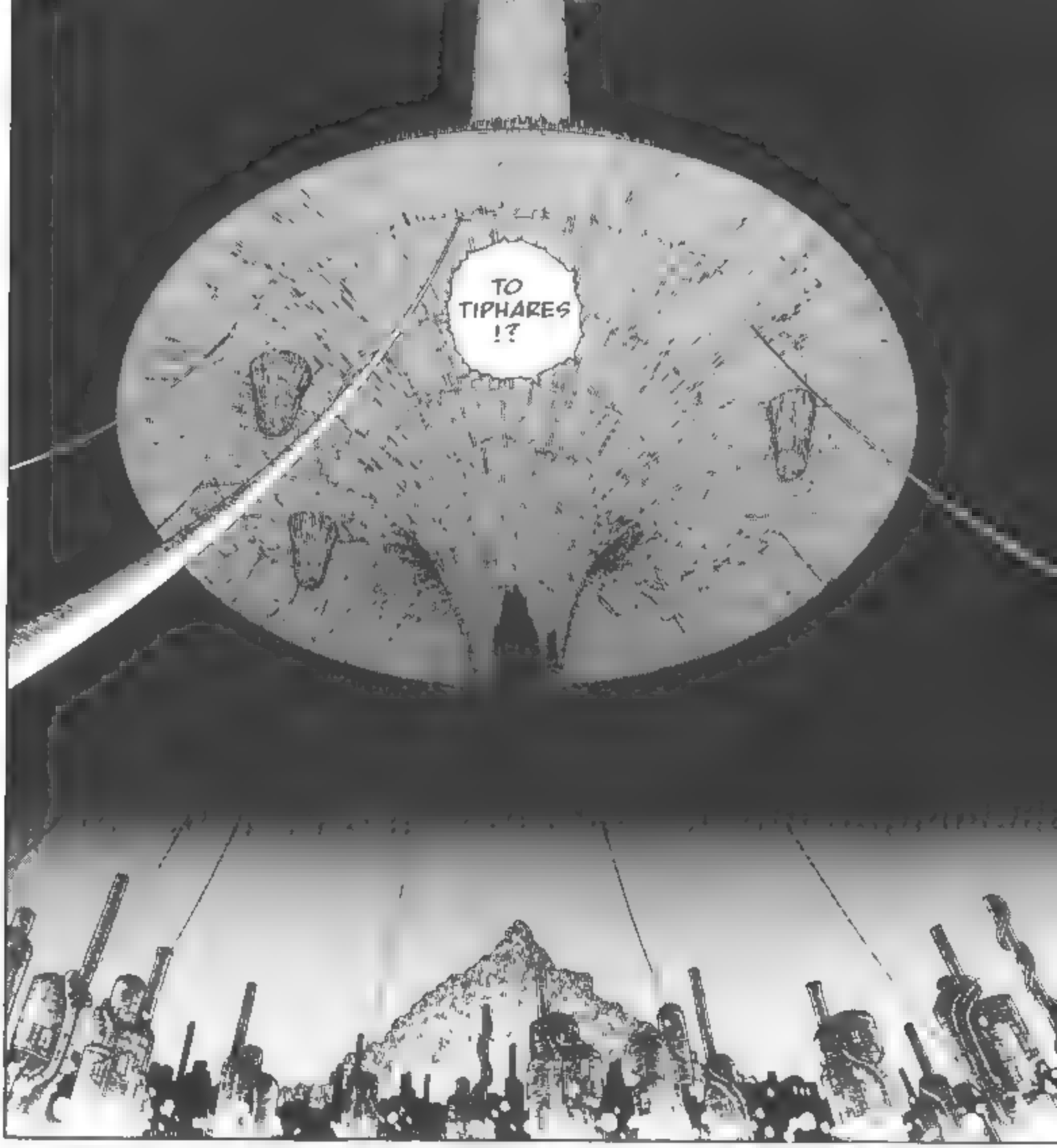
I WANTED TO REACH IT BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A HIGH, FARAWAY PLACE...
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO SEE A DIFFERENT VIEW THAN THE ONES I'VE SEEN UP 'TIL NOW.


.....

HUGO...
SKEEKA
JUST HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU NEED TO GO TO TIPHARES?
EH ?
I LIKE THOSE EYES OF YOURS, ALWAYS LOOKING TOWARD THE SKY...
...THEY WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT A DREAM BEHIND THEM.
"OH, HUGO-- EVEN IF ALL I AM TO YOU IS A BUSYBODY... . I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE .."
THE TUBEWAY TO TIPHARES MOANS, AS IF AGREEING WITH THE YOUNG GIRL'S SILENT WISH..
OMSH HOOHMM

TONK!
KANG KANG KANG
SHASH
THWAK
UNH!
KYAAA! A WOMA-A-A-N!!
SLEESH
PONK

THERE'S ANOTHER HUNDRED THOUSAND CHIPS!
PLOOK
JUST WATCH! I'LL MAKE TEN MILLION CHIPS IN JUST A MONTH!
IT SEEMS THE DIRTY WORK ISN'T SO DIRTY ANYMORE.. WHAT HAPPENED, ALITA?
IDO... I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
I'M GOING WITH HUGO!
TO TIPHARES !!
WHA--?


TO TIPHARES !?

SIR !
SIR, HOW ABOUT A LUBE JOB?

YOU--I'LL TAKE YOU, BOY!
THANK YOU, SIR!

OIL
OIL
OIL
YEE HEE
HEH! SO THIS IS HOW YOU GUYS DO IT, HUH !?

WHEN YOUR FACE SHOWS UP ON THE BOUNTY LIST...
. I BET IT WILL REALLY MESS UP THAT LITTLE ALITA OF YOURS-- DON'T YOU, HUGO?
SNAP

ZISHA
ZISHA
ZZISH
KATOK
SKAK
HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH
GRAND THEFT SPINAL COLUMN... LOOKS LIKE I'VE CAUGHT YOU RED-HANDED
GAK

ACCORDING TO "FACTORY LAW"...
...ROBBING A LIVING BEING OF HIS CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM IS A BOUNTY LIST-GRADE OFFENSE, ISN'T IT?
A HUNTER-WARRIOR!
WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW..
LET'S SEE YOUR FACE..
..LITTLE HUGO!
I'M TELLING YOU, TAKE OFF YOUR MASK!
UNGH!
SKNCH
SKRSH
HEE, HEE, HEE.

SKRAK
BASTARD! GET YOUR HANDS OFF HIM!
IDIOT! GET OUT OF HERE!
!
KRAK
SHASH
EAT THIS!
FWUD

GLAR AGH!
WHAM
KREKA KREK
SI SH
HYAH, HAH, HAH!
STOP!

SLISH!!
YOU'RE MINE!
YAHHHH!!
AND YOU'RE NEXT!
FWLLESH

FLASHT
NOO!
SKLEETCH
NICE SHOT, EH?
YAHAHA
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP
HEH, HEH, HEH. NOW, THEN
HMM!?
CHIK

GO TO HELL!
SPASH
UH!
AAA AGH!!
BOOOSH!

KREK
NOOOOO!
FWISH
TUMPATUMP
hff
TMP
TMP
TMP
hff
hff
SHSH
KA DONK
DONK
DONK

KLSK
TCH! QUICK LITTLE DEVIL, OUR HUGO!
SSASS
BUT HIS ESCAPE MAY MAKE MY REVENGE AGAINST ALITA ALL THE MORE CRUEL!
SO MUCH MORE FITTING IF IT'S "OUR FAIR JULIET" WHO DELIVERS THE KILLING BLOW TO THAT ROMEO. HEH, HEH, HEH...
HA, HA, HA!

uff
hff
jff
MR. VECTOR...?
uff
HEY, HUGO.
WHAT!? YOU BLEW IT!?
IT-IT WAS A HUNTER-WARRIOR... MASQUERADING AS A CUSTOMER...!
VAN AND TANJI--THEY WERE BOTH KILLED!
DAMN!
NOW CALM DOWN, HUGO!
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, MY MAN.
YOU JUST GET THE MONEY YOU'VE SAVED UP AND BRING IT TO ME! YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE!

YES, SIR...
...I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, MR. VECTOR.
GYAHA HA
SO...I'VE FINALLY ENDED UP AS BOUNTY!
AND I WAS SO DAMN CLOSE TO THE TEN MILLION CHIPS, TOO...
ALMOST THERE--AND NOW MY LUCK TURNS SOUR!
SKEEK
WHAT'S THIS ..?
VAN... TANJI. .
DAMN !
TMP TMP TMP

I CAN'T LET IT END THIS WAY!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE! NOT 'TIL I GET TO TIPHARES!
A-ALITA.
WHAT!?
WH-WHY DO I SUDDENLY THINK OF HER AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
OW!
BAR
WATCH IT, PUNK!
BONK
THIS HAS...
...NOTHING TO DO WITH HER!

*DNA FINGERPRINTING: A TECHNIQUE OF ANALYZING THE DNA (DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID) IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL

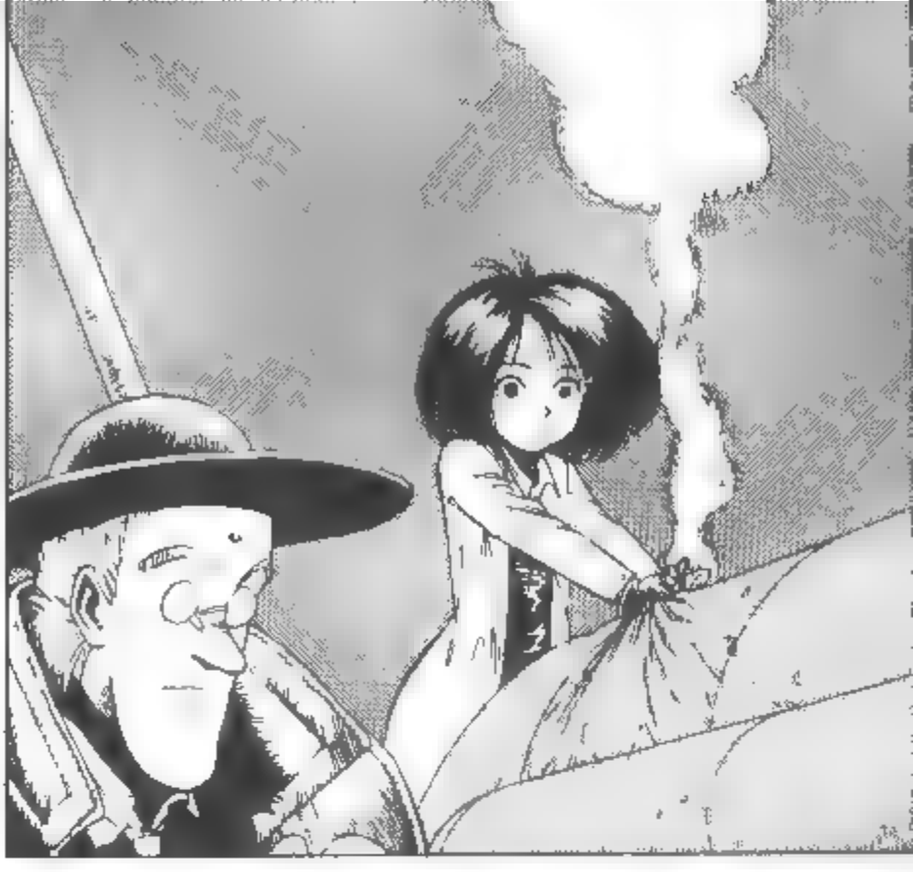
HEE, HEE! KNOW WHAT? I'M GOING TO SAVE UP EVER MORE--THEN I CAN GO TO TIPHARES WITH HUGO!
HEY! WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS TIPHARES?
LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THE FIFTH, MA'AM!
HOO, BOY.
..WHERE DID SHE GET THIS RIDICULOUS IDEA THAT YOU CAN BUY YOUR WAY TO TIPHARES?
ALITA...

...HAVE YOU TOLD HIM YOU'RE DOING THIS?
....
NO, NOT YET.
ARE YOU SURE HUGO'S THAT ATTACHED TO YOU?
I HAVEN'T ASKED HIM.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW HIM TO TIPHARES-- BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOUR RELATION-SHIP IS?
Y-YEAH, BUT..
...I-IM AFRAID.

I UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYONE'S AFRAID TO CONFRONT REALITY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO TOUCH IT. YOU WANT TO KEEP LOOKING AWAY.
BUT YOU CAN'T LOOK AWAY FOREVER.
THE TIME IS SURE TO COME WHEN YOU'LL HAVE TO STARE IT IN THE FACE AND DECIDE WHAT STANCE TO TAKE.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY REALITY!? WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL! YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A HUMAN BEING IN A MECHANICAL BODY!
BUT THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE, ALITA. AND NOW YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY.
WHERE HAS MY BRAVE LITTLE ALITA GONE?
YOU'RE WRONG... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... I'M ONLY HOLDING BACK..

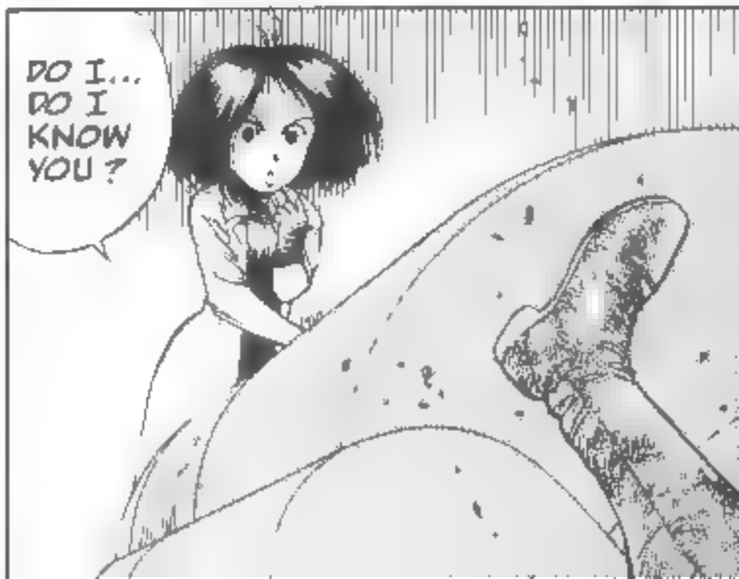
...BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO HURT HUGO.
IF I WERE TO SHOW HIM HOW I FEEL WITH ALL MY HEART...
I THINK I MIGHT TEAR HUGO'S BODY TO PIECES...
SKRAUNK
!
I SEE..
SSSSSS

GOOD EVENING.



SUCH PERFECT TIMING, IDO. I DIDN'T EXPECT TO RUN INTO YOU...
..OR LITTLE ALITA! I'VE GOT SOME.. INTERESTING.. NEWS FOR YOU, GIRL!

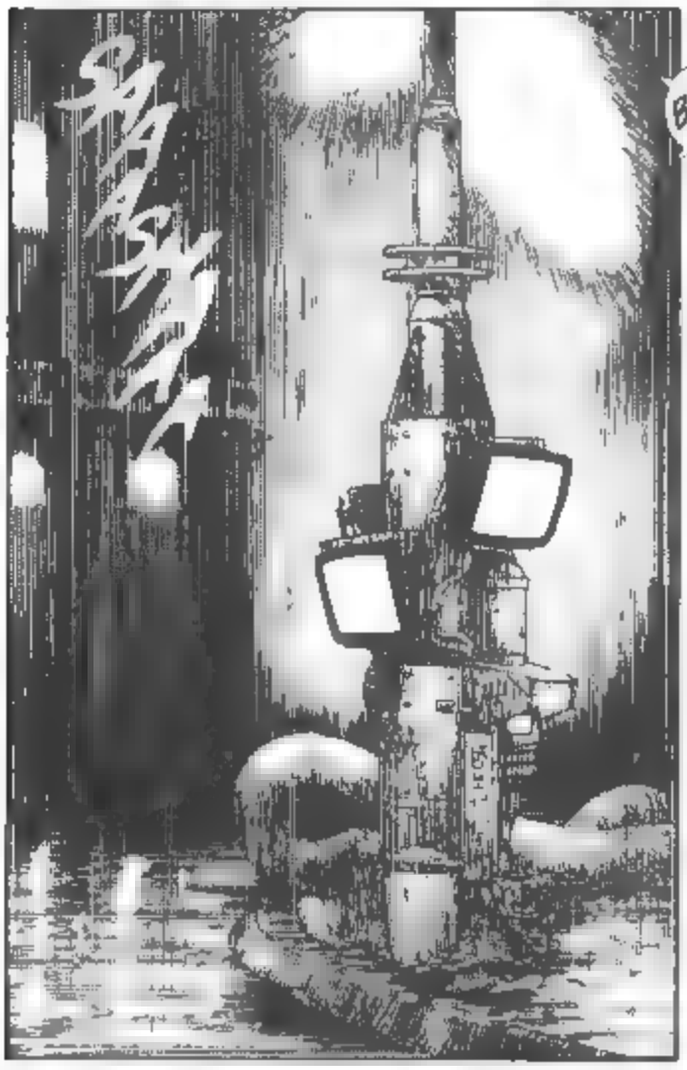
?!


DO I... DO I KNOW YOU?

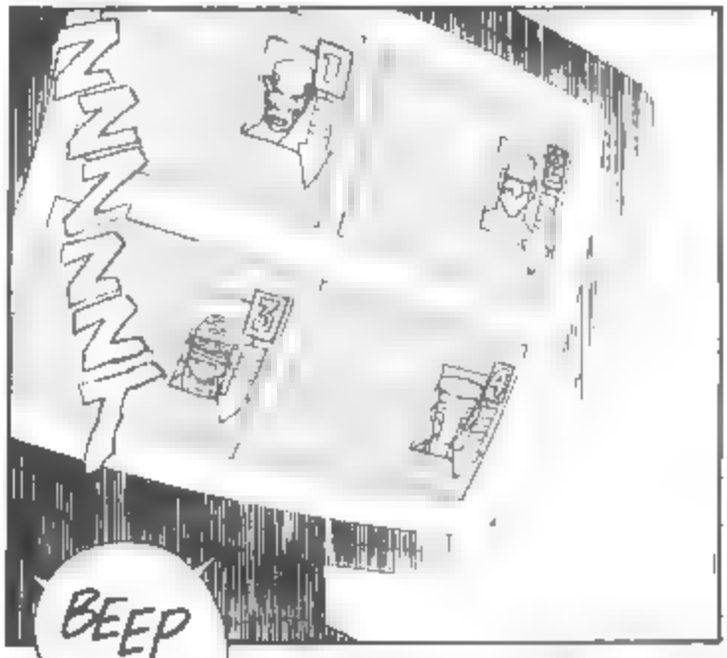
THAT'S A HELL OF A GREETING! ARE YOU SAYING YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE GREAT ZAPAN!?
YOU KNOW... FROM THE BRAWL AT BAR KANSAS!
OH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MAYBE HE WAS ONE OF THAT RABBLE.
HAHA
.....
GRRR
W-WELL...NEVER MIND THAT..I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT THIS TIME.
THAT DARLING HUGO OF YOURS.
...IS ONE OF THE PERPETRATORS OF THE SPINAL COLUMN THEFT THAT'S BECOME SO POPULAR!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

HE HASN'T APPEARED ON THE BOUNTY LIST YET! BUT THEY'LL BE ONTO HIM SOON-- AND YOU'RE SUCH A HOTSHOT HUNTER-WARRIOR...
..YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PASS UP THAT BOUNTY, EH ALITA!?
HUGO...
A WANTED MAN !?

SA AAA


SA AAA

BEEEP
Today's Bounty
List Update


ZZZZZZT
BEEP

DNA CODE
CRIMINAL NUMBER:3491625C7
NAME: HUGO
€ 80'000
PRINT
2
COPIES
INSERT
CHIP
PRINT
OUT
DATA

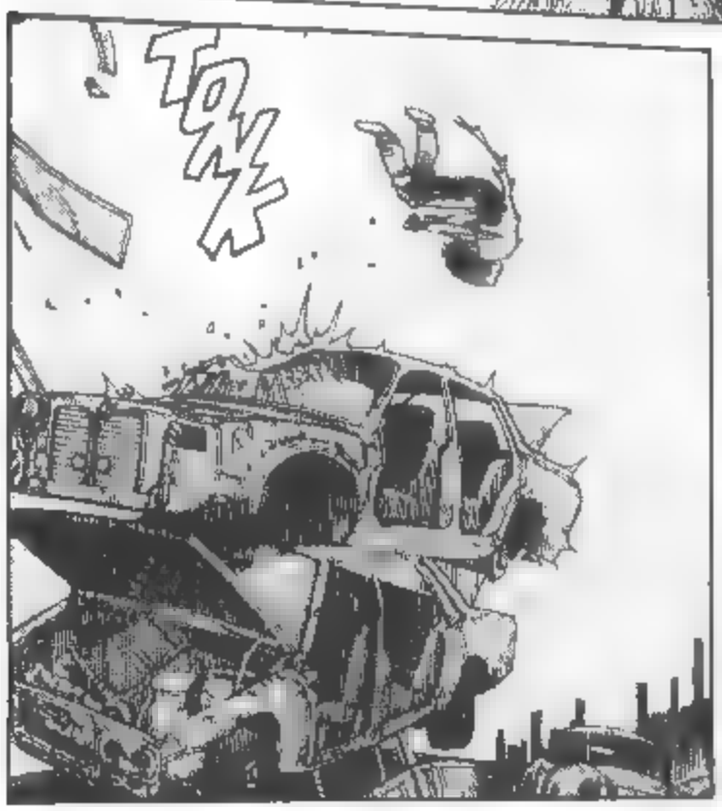
RAINY DAYS
Struggle 3: Fugitive of Dream!
SHASH

SEEK
I'VE GOT TO FIND..
HUGO..
...AND REAL FAST!
I'VE GOT TO FIND--
SKREEK

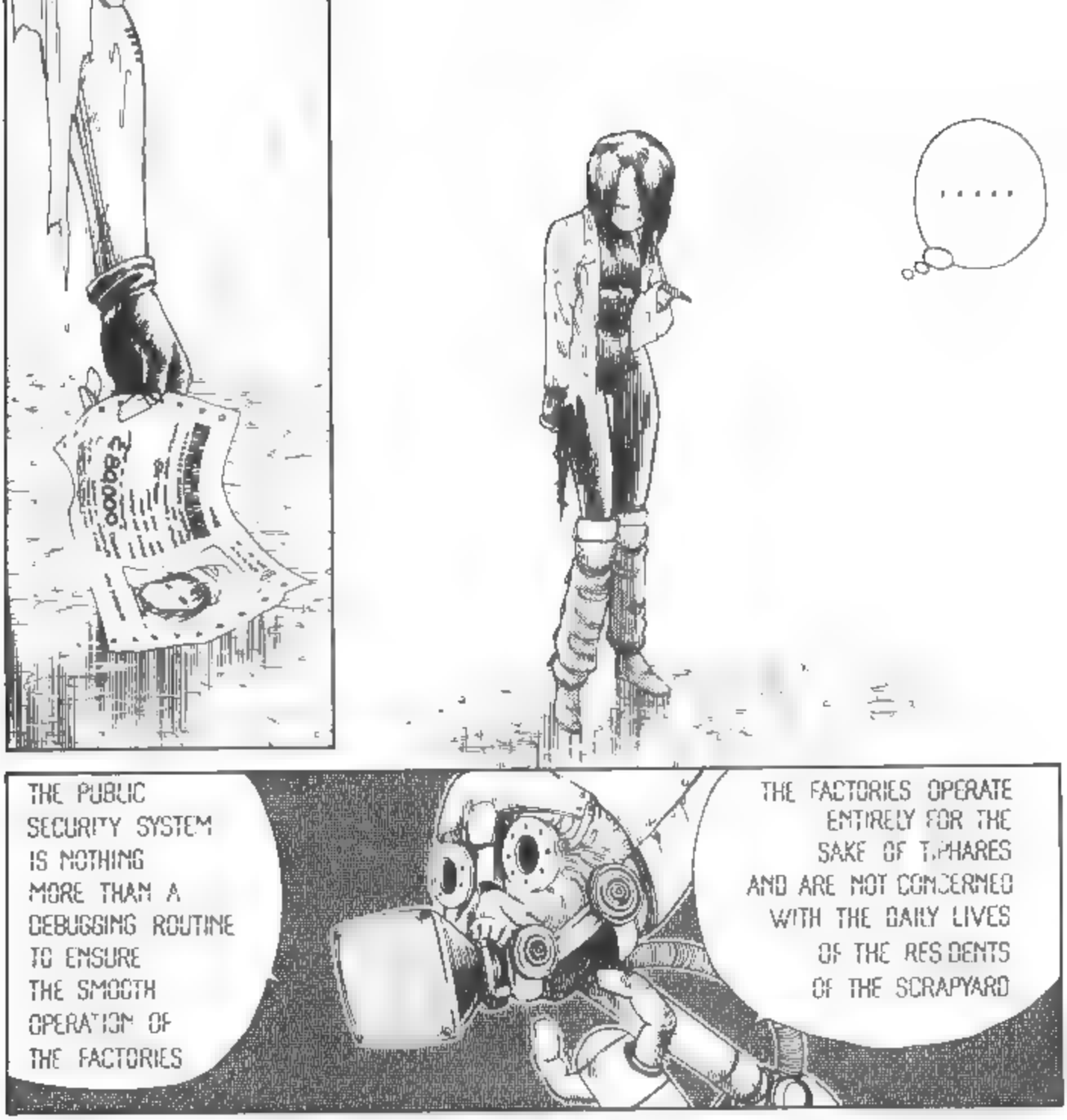
TWUD
TWUD
KAKKONK
BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WHEN I FIND HIM!?
YOU'RE SUCH A HOTSHOT HUNTER-WARRIOR, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PASS UP THAT BOUNTY, EH, ALITA!?
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER TAKE HUGO'S HEAD!

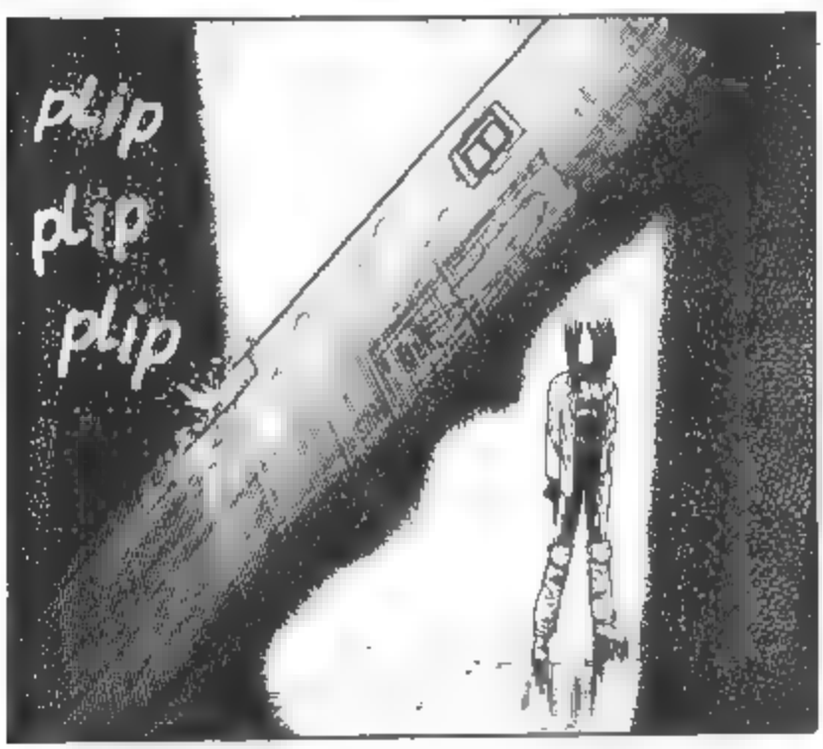
MAYBE I CAN PROTECT HUGO--FIGHT AGAINST THE OTHER HUNTER-WARRIORS!

BUT WON'T I RISK BECOMING A BOUNTY MYSELF ?



SAAA
KREEK KRIK
Hugo
365
CHAKKA TAKKA
REPORT TO THE FACTORY IMMEDIATELY IF YOU SPOT THIS ONE
IT'S HUGO...
OH, MY!
WHY SUCH A HIGH BOUNTY? HE'S ONLY A BOY!
THE NATURE OF THE CRIME IS CALCULATED, AND THE BOUNTY IS SET AUTOMATICALLY
PRETTY ONE-SIDED, ISN'T IT?

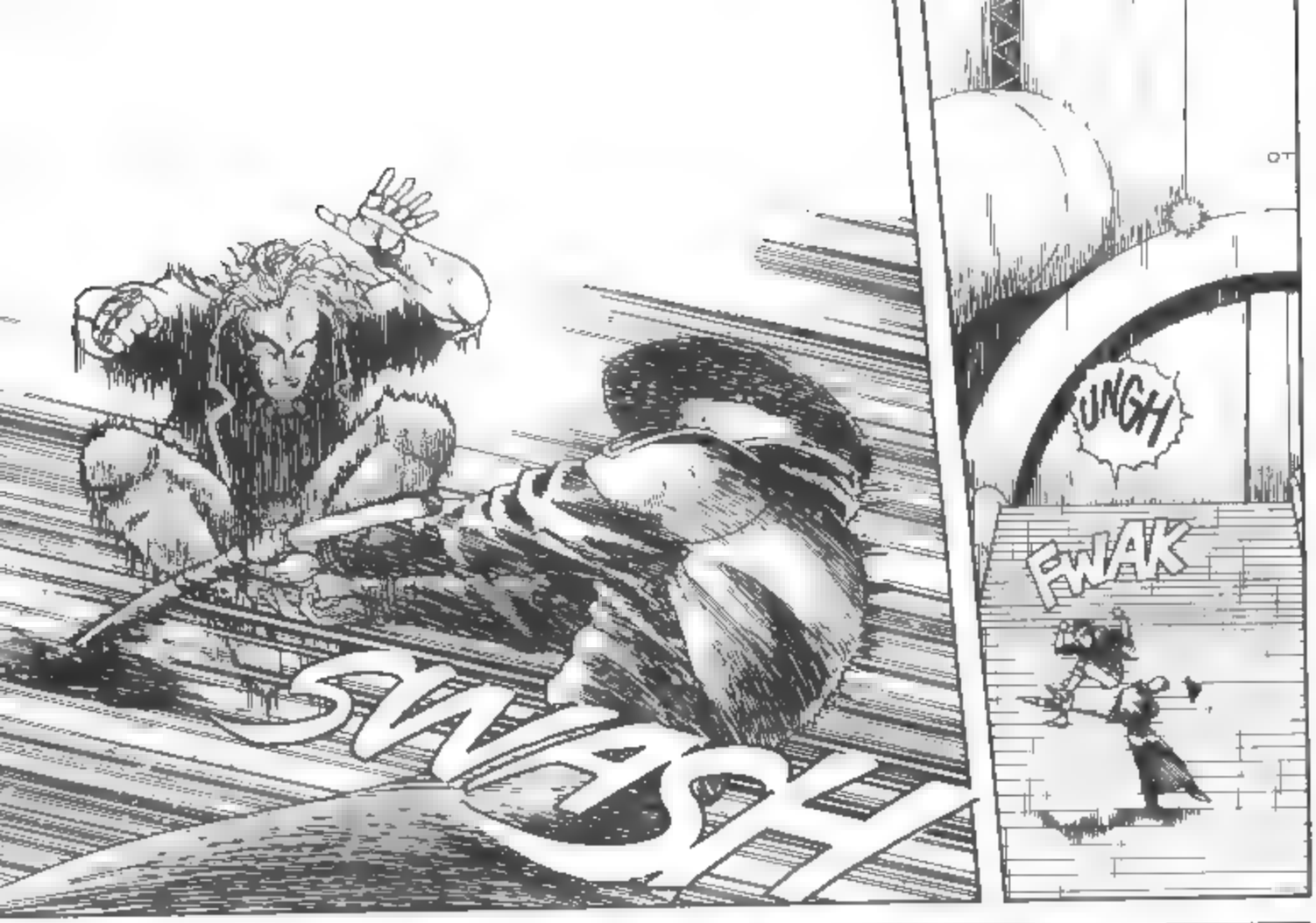

.....
THE PUBLIC SECURITY SYSTEM IS NOTHING MORE THAN A DEBUGGING ROUTINE TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF THE FACTORIES
THE FACTORIES OPERATE ENTIRELY FOR THE SAKE OF TAPHARES AND ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH THE DAILY LIVES OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE SCRAPYARD


plip
plip
plip

...BUT WAIT!
HE MIGHT BE THERE!

HOW ABOUT A BET, DOC? THINK ALITA WILL COME BACK WITH HER LOVER'S HEAD?
HEH, HEH, HEH..
NAH, I KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.
AT THIS RATE, ALITA WILL JUST RUN AWAY WITH THE KID, THAT'S ALL.
SHAAAAA
IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF FUN, ZAPAN? PICKING ON A LITTLE GIRL?
YOU MAKE ME SICK I'M LEAVING!
SIK
WHOA, HOLD IT THERE.
HANDS OFF ME!

HE HE HE HE
I WANT YOU TO JOIN IN THE FUN, TOO, DOC!
SK
RAK
HMPH!
YAA AH!


SWACK
UNGH
FWAK

BOMP
BOMP
BOMP
HEH, HEH... I NEED YOU AS A PAWN TO GET AT ALITA, OLD MAN!
NOW THIS WILL BE SOMETHING TO SEE!
SUUAAA

SHAAA
KABOOM
KABOOM

BANG
BANG
BANG
SPLISH
SPLISH

SHEESH THIS RAIN IS AWFUL
SPLISH
SPLISH

SAAAAAA

BOOM BOOM BOOM
KREEEK

TWO, FOUR, SIX, EIGHT
JING
NINE MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND CHIPS!

JUST ANOTHER TEN SPINAL COLUMNS FOR AN EVEN TEN MIL

KRAK
EH?!

SPAK

HEY...
PLOOP
PLOOP

KRAKA BLAM
HUGO ..
SHAK SHAK SHAK
.....!
BOOOMMM
ALITA !
I THOUGHT THIS IS WHERE YOU WOULD BE...
...THE ABANDONED FACTORY WHERE I FIRST MET YOU.

.....
CHIGH
HMM?
!
¢80,000
HA, HA! MY HEAD'S WORTH ONLY EIGHTY THOUSAND CHIPS!? THAT'S PRETTY CHEAP. DAMN.
HAHAHA
IS THE PAPER RIGHT? IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU DO, HUGO!?
YEAH, SURE. I DID A LOT OF IT. HEH, HEH!
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU, BUT I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT...

BOOM BOOM
AAAAA
.AND IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT.
SPISH SPISH
YOU CAN'T BE SEEN IN TOWN NOW, CAN YOU?
SAAAA
WHERE WILL YOU GO, HUGO? WHERE WILL YOU RUN?
NO, ALITA-- I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, I'VE GOT TO GO BACK...
W-WHY?

I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON TIPHARES YET!
I'M GOING BACK TO TOWN. I'VE GOT TO GET TO VECTOR'S PLACE!
THAT'S CRAZY! YOU WANT TO GO TO TIPHARES SO BAD YOU'D THROW AWAY YOUR LIFE!?
YOU'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRIED. I DON'T JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS STINKING PLACE!
THIS IS A BATTLE! A BATTLE BETWEEN ME AND THE SCRAPYARD!
THE SCRAPYARD HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO ROB ME--TRIED TO STEAL EVERY ONE OF MY DREAMS...
...TRIED TO TAKE EVERY OUNCE OF MY PRIDE! IF I LET GO NOW, I'LL BE JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE SCRAP.
.....

BUT I'M NOT SCRAP, ALITA!
EVEN IF IT'S A STUPID DREAM, HOLDING ON TO IT IS MY ONLY PROOF OF WHO I AM!
IF I RUN AWAY NOW, ALL THAT I'VE BEEN-- ALL THAT I'VE TRIED TO BE-- WILL BECOME A LIE.
!
OH!
KRAKA BLAM
COME NIGHTFALL, I'M OUTTA HERE.
YOU'D BEST BE ON YOUR WAY .BEFORE YOU GET MIXED UP IN THIS.
SEE YOU LATER!
H-HE DOESN'T KNOW! I HAVE TO TELL HIM. TELL HIM HOW MUCH I CARE FOR HIM...
KA FASH

I-I NEED TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME.
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, HUGO! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
BOOM BOOM
OH, GOD... WHAT...
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO LOVE HIM...
.. WILL I STILL FIGHT FOR HUGO--EVEN IF IT MEANS BECOMING A BOUNTY MYSELF?

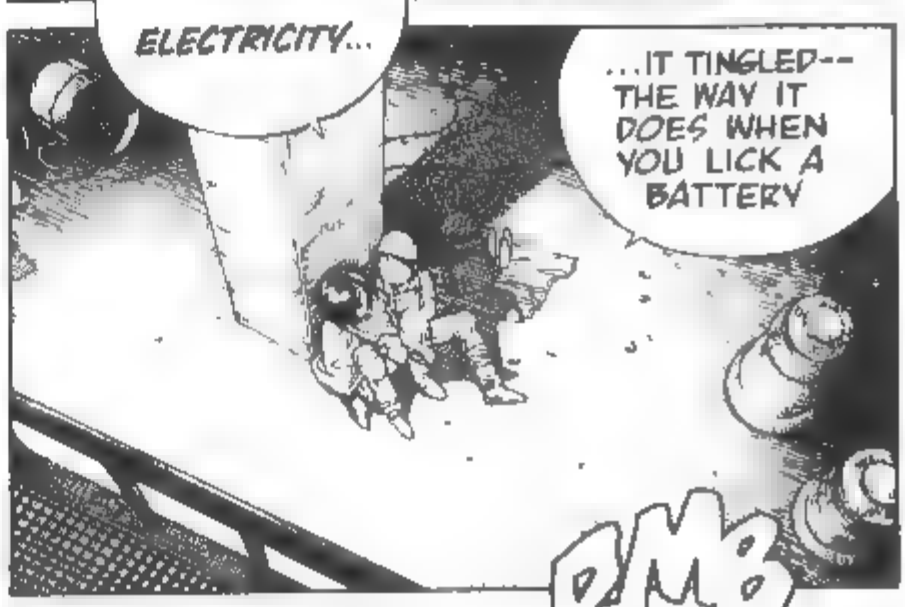
OR MAYBE I'LL..
TIK
...MAYBE I'LL JUST KILL HUGO WITH MY OWN HANDS...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING NONSENSE FOR? GO HOME...
Heh Heh
ANSWER ME!
FWAM
IF I WERE TO KILL HUGO..
..I'D WANT TO DIE, TOO!

. . . . .
I-I'VE BEEN SO SET ON TIPHARES..I NEVER REALLY NOTICED BEFORE...
..WHAT BEAUTIFUL EYES THIS GIRL HAS..
I GUESS THIS MAKES US PARTNERS IN CRIME . YOU AND ME ..

KABOOM
BOOM
SHAAA

RMBRMB
RMB
RMB
SHAAAAAA

PISHA
PLISHA


THAT--THAT TASTED LIKE...
ELECTRICITY...
...IT TINGLED--THE WAY IT DOES WHEN YOU LICK A BATTERY

RMB
RMB
THERE MUST BE A CHARGE BETWEEN US, HUGO...
...OR MAYBE IT'S THE LIGHTNING PEOPLE CAN CATCH A SPARK ON DAYS LIKE THIS...

I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR A WHILE NOW...
...ABOUT THAT SCAR ON YOUR WRIST.
HMM?
THIS? THIS IS A MEMENTO OF MY BIG BROTHER.
ME-MEN-TO?
A REMEMBRANCE... HE WAS A LOT OLDER THAN ME.
MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE WERE MY FAMILY BACK THEN...
HE WAS A MECHANICAL ENGINEER AT ONE OF THE FACTORIES...
...AND MY SISTER-IN-LAW WAS REALLY NICE-- GENTLE, AND KIND...
..BRO WAS REALLY COOL-- HE HAD TWICE THE CURIOSITY OF AN ORDINARY PERSON, A REAL PASSION FOR EXPLORING.

WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE BUILT TIPHARES, HUGO?
THE FACTORIES THE SCRAPYARD-- WHY ARE THEY HERE? WHEN WERE THEY BUILT?
I KNOW YOU BRO-- YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE HUGO! NO RECORDS OF THE PAST EXIST DOWN HERE AT ALL
I'M NOT SURE THE FACTORIES-- THE FLOATING CITY-- WANT US TO KNOW..

I WONDER WHERE THE SHAFT ATOP TIPHARES GOES, YOU KNOW?
HOW COME IT DON'T FALL OVER?
HMM. THE WAY I FIGURE IT, THE THE SHAFT ISN'T STANDING ON TIPHARES-- TIPHARES IS HANGING FROM THE SHAFT.
IT PROBABLY EXTENDS BEYOND THE ATMOSPHERE INTO SPACE.
A BALANCE OF GRAVITY AND CENTRIFUGAL FORCE COULD KEEP IT FROM FALLING DOWN.
WOW!
THERE COULD EVEN BE ANOTHER CITY MATCHING TIPHARES AT THE OTHER END OF THE SHAFT--A SPACE CITY.
A WHOLE NEW WORLD BEYOND IMAGINATION-- FLOATING OUT IN SPACE!

ONE NIGHT MY BROTHER SUDDENLY JUMPED OUT OF BED.
TOMP!
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND !!
NANA! HUGO!
I'M GOING TO FLY!
..?
HE HAD THIS NOTION OF BUILDING A MASSIVE BALLOON...
SO WE LOAD THE GONDOLA WITH SEVERAL WEEKS OF FOOD...

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ALL THE WAY TO SPACE, BUT WE'LL HAVE A VANTAGE POINT TO CHECK OUT TIPHARES AND THE SHAFT AT CLOSE RANGE.
I'LL SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD!
RADICAL!!
BUT DEAR, IT'S A VIOLATION OF FACTORY LAW TO BUILD OR USE FLYING DEVICES!
NO PROBLEM WE'LL BE SO FAR GONE EVEN THE HUNTER WARRIORS WON'T BE ABLE TO CHASE US!
KEEP IT JUST BETWEEN US--OKAY, LITTLE HUGO?

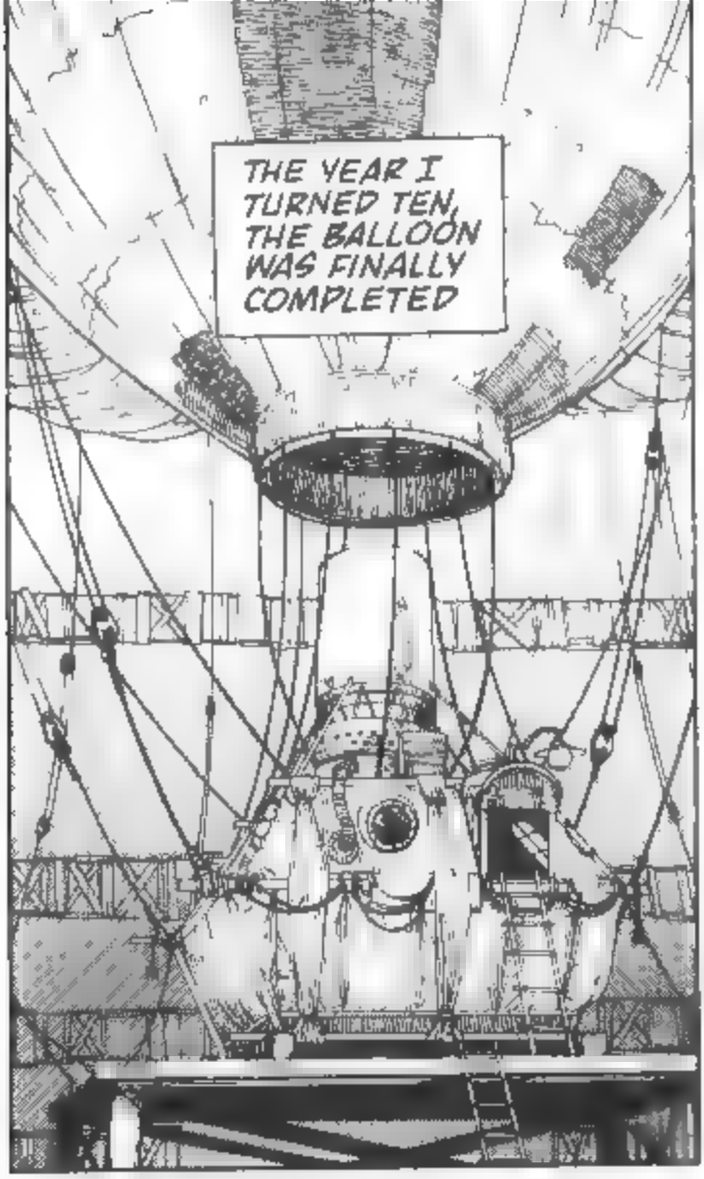
MY BROTHER USED THIS ABANDONED FACTORY AS HIS "SECRET BASE" AND BEGAN WORKING ON HIS PROJECT.
HERE..?

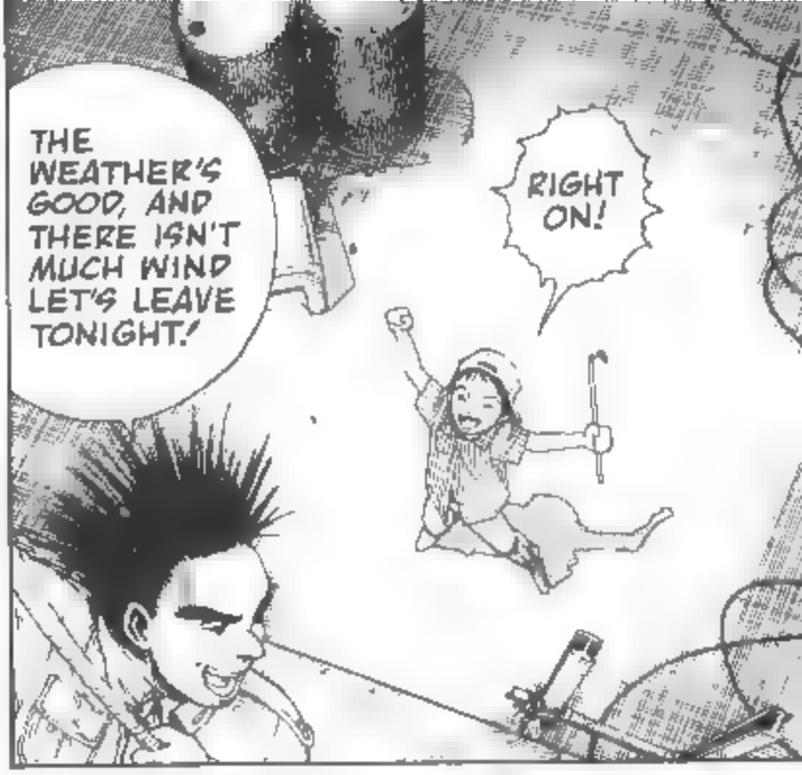
I GUESS THIS PLACE DOES HOLD A LOT OF MEMORIES FOR ME.

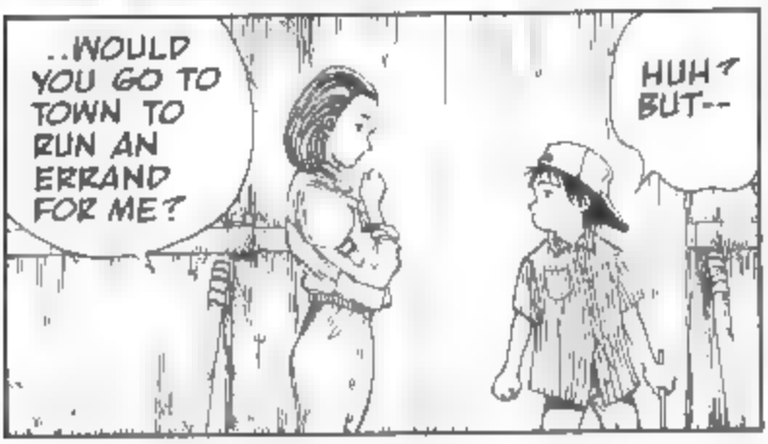
BUT YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW-- WASN'T SHE OPPOSED?
THEY GOT ALONG REALLY WELL IN FRONT OF ME.

BUT I SAW THEM ARGUING SOMETIMES.

I THINK MY SISTER-IN-LAW WAS NERVOUS ABOUT LEAVING HER HOME...SHE JUST COULDN'T TAKE TO THE WIND ON A WING AND A PRAYER-- YOU KNOW?

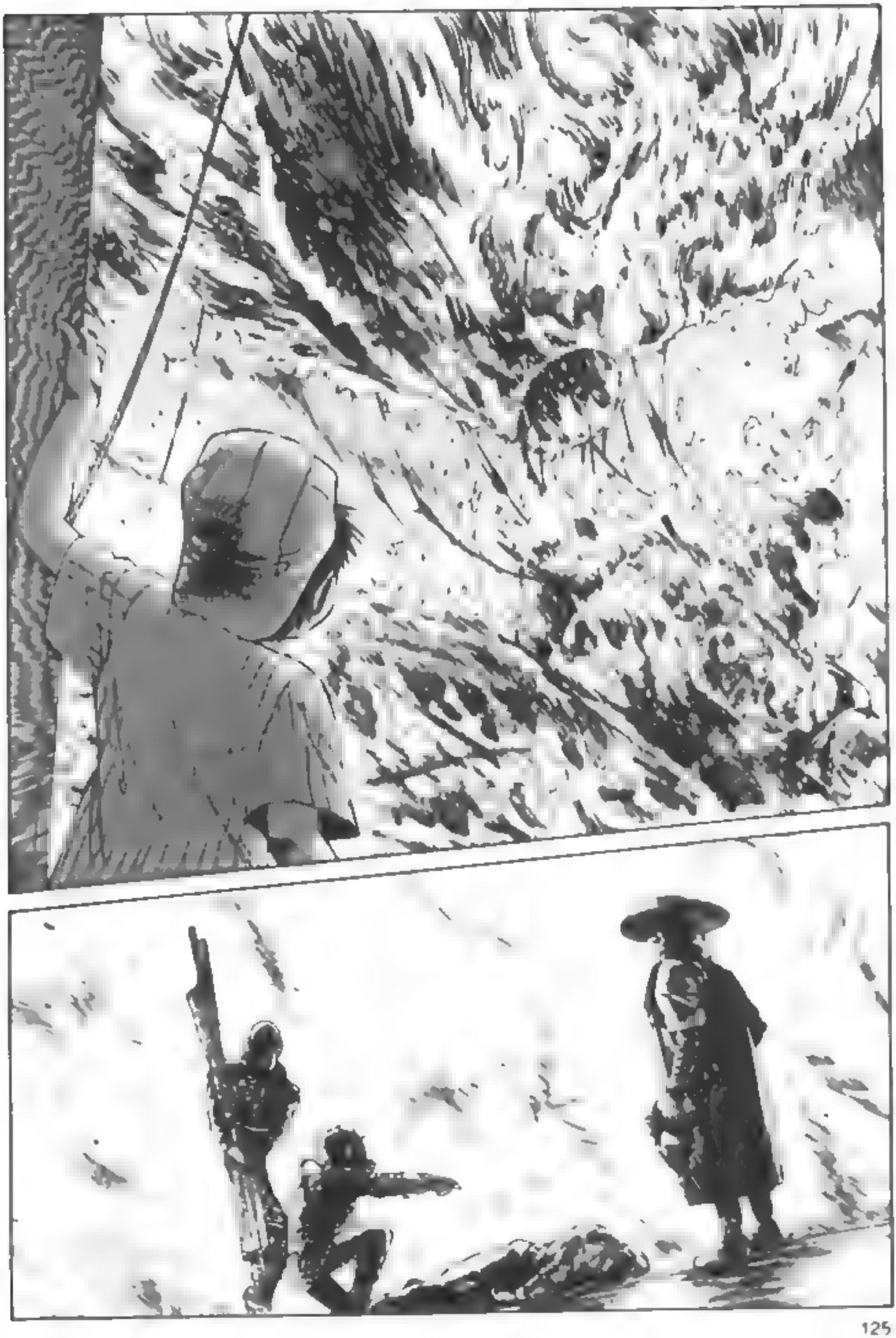


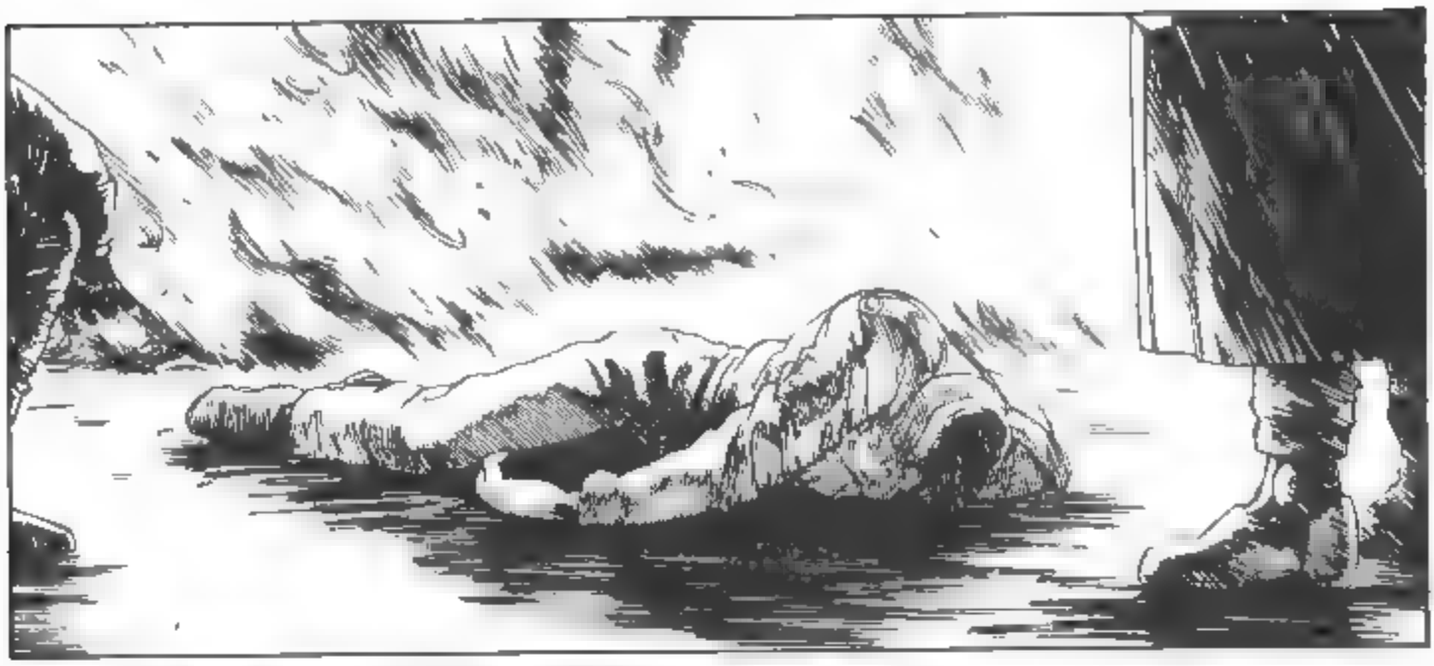




SOMETHING WAS GOING ON. I WAS SURE OF IT.

uff hff
GOTTEN COMPLETELY DARK, DARN IT..
UFF HFF UFF
HUH ?
FWOP
TWOP
TOP
BRO!





N-NO...
B-BIG
BRO--

HURRY.. PLEASE TAKE IT AWAY QUICKLY!

YOU MUSTN'T LOOK, HUGO! YOU MUSTN'T LOOK!
FWUMP

hmph

THAT'S WHEN I KNEW.
MY SISTER-IN-LAW HAD BETRAYED HIM! SHE HAD SOLD MY BROTHER TO A HUNTER-WARRIOR!
WAH!
WAH HH H!
NANA TRIED TO RAISE ME AFTER THAT, BUT I COULDN'T TRUST HER..
...NOT AFTER WHAT SHE'D DONE. I--I RAN AWAY FROM HOME.
I STARTED HANGING WITH A BAD CROWD THAT WAS ALWAYS STEALING AND BRAWLIN

THEN ONE DAY, TWO YEARS LATER...
FRESH SURPLUS BODY PARTS!
FNISH FNASH
FRESH PARTS
SALE
YOU, SIR! WHADDAYASAY!?
NOTHIN' LIKE A REAL FLESH AND BLOOD BODY!
WE GOT EVERYTHING BUT BRAINS!
FNACK
SALE
£16,000
SINGLE PIECE
AH..
IT'S MY BIG BROTHER'S HAND!

THE DISTINCTIVE SHAPE OF THE NAILS... THE LOCATION OF THE MOLE AND THE LITTLE SCAR-- UNMISTAKABLY MY BIG BROTHER'S HAND.
IT WAS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO TAKE-- THE SUDDEN RUSH OF MEMORIES...

NOW GIT ALONG, BOY-- YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH BUSINESS!
SHISH

HEY, MISTER...!

TRADE ME THIS HAND FOR MY RIGHT HAND!

YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! TAKE A HIKE!
PLEASE!
HOLD IT! YOU SAY... INTERESTING THINGS, BOY.
MR. VECTOR!
MYRA, PERFORM THAT SWAP FOR HIM!
YES, SIR!
THE CELLS IN A CHILD'S HAND ARE FRESH-- WE CAN GET A BETTER PRICE FOR IT...
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET RID OF THAT SCAR FOR YOU? I CAN MAKE THAT HAND LOOK REAL PRETTY...
NO, IT HAS.. MEMORIES FOR ME.

IT'LL REMIND ME OF MY BIG BROTHER'S DREAM.
I'LL STICK TO THE SCRAPYARD MYSELF, BUT IF YOU WANT TO GO UP TO TIPHARES, TRY ASKING MR. VECTOR.
HUH ?
MR VECTOR'S GOT PULL IN THE FACTORIES. HE'S THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WHOLE SCRAPYARD WHO'S EVER BEEN TO TIPHARES!
HEY! WATCH WHAT YOU SAY...
REALLY !?
Y-YEAH
TAKE ME TO TIPHARES, TOO !
ALL RIGHT.. BRING ME TEN MILLION CHIPS!
IF YOU CAN GET TOGETHER THE CREDITS, TIPHARES IS AS GOOD AS YOURS, BOY!

SHAAAAAA
SO, FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.
RMB RMB RMB
..I'VE STASHED MY EARNINGS HERE..A LITTLE AT A TIME...
NINE AND A HALF MILLION CHIPS--
--ANOTHER FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND I'M THERE.
WHAT'S YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW DOING NOW?
DON'T KNOW-- PROBABLY CAUGHT UP WITH SOME OTHER GUY SOMEWHERE.

I--I THINK I UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW MUST HAVE FELT.
IF THE PERSON I LOVED WAS MORE ATTRACTED TO SOME FAR AWAY PLACE THAN TO ME... I'D FEEL JEALOUS.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
AT FIRST, SHE TRIED HARD TO ADJUST, TO SHARE HIS VISION...
.. BUT EVENTUALLY SHE FIGURED SHE'D BEEN ABANDONED ALONG WITH THE SCRAPYARD.
AND SO.. SHE KILLED HIM.
HA, HA...

WELL, THEN, IF YOU WANNA KEEP ME FROM GOING TO TIPHARES.
...YOU'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO DO ME IN RIGHT HERE, EH? HA, HA!
HMM I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
SHALL I KILL YOU?

HMM ?
SKNCH
WHAT'S THIS !?
MORE THAN ENOUGH.
..TO GET YOU TO TIPHARES.
I'LL DELIVER YOU SAFELY TO VECTOR'S PLACE!
IF ALL GOES WELL, I'LL GET TO TIPHARES SOMETIME SOON! WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...
I'LL TAKE IT, ALITA--
--BUT I GOTTA TAKE A LEAK, TOO.

THE RAIN... IT'S SLOWED TO A DRIZZLE
SHAAAA
PISHA PASHA
WHAT CAN I DO FOR ALITA?
SPOOSH
MAYBE I SHOULD WAIT FOR HER. WE COULD GO TOGETHER!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN..
!
PISHA PASHA

YOUR FAMILY JUST SEEMS TO FALL RIGHT INTO MY HANDS!
SKI SKI
ZI-KA-SHA
SKISH
YOU'RE THE ONE...!?

NO, I...
SPSSST
FLASH

SSST
CHACKA CHAKKA TAKKA
RMBRMBRMB
!?
ASHES TO ASHES..
SST
SST

KRESH
!?
STOP!
SKWAK
UH!

YOU'RE A HUNTER-WARRIOR, TOO? THAT PUNK IS MY PREY!
FIND YOUR OWN BOUNTY!
SHAAAAA
GIVE HIM BACK TO ME...
...AS FACTORY LAW DICTATES!
OH, HUGO...
YOU KNOW THIS CRIMINAL--!?

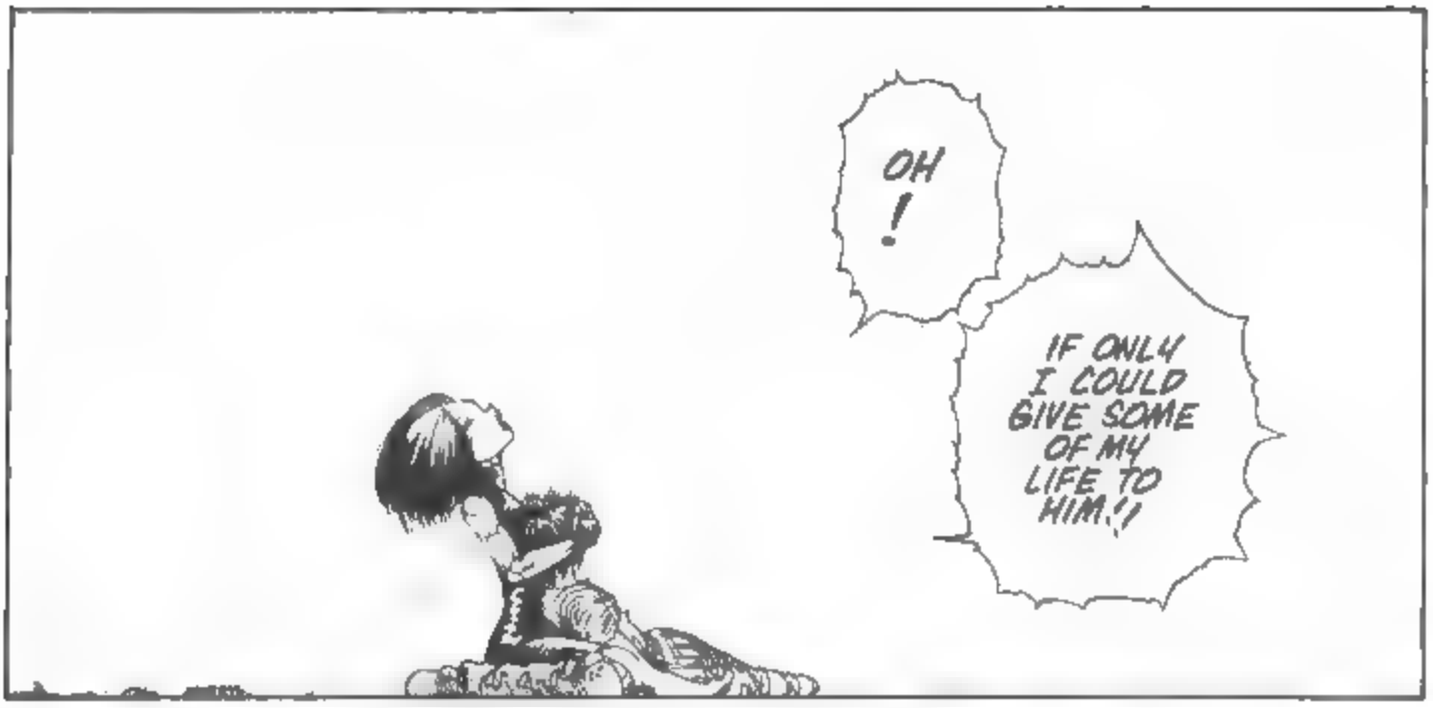
THEN YOU'RE A TRAITOR!
SLASH
SMASH
SHOOT

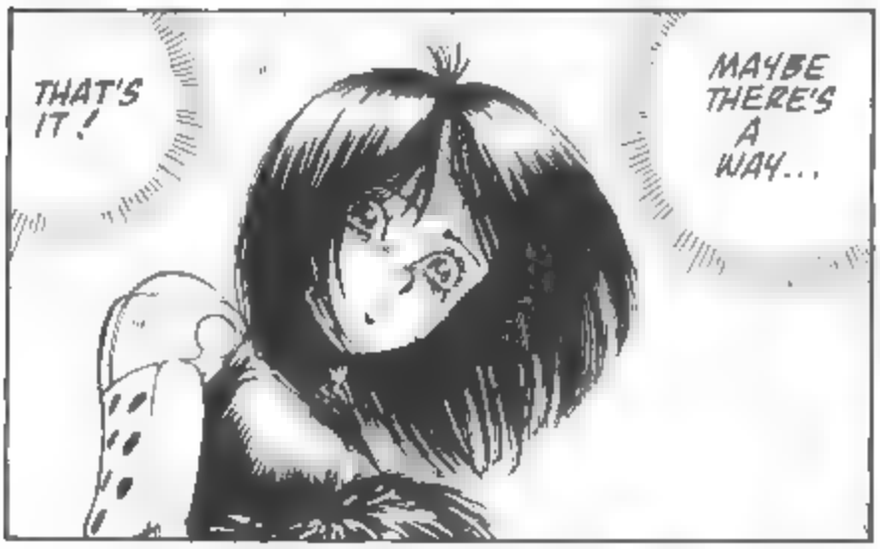
FOOL. YOU INTEND TO TEST YOUR STRENGTH AGAINST MINE!?
TRY ME THEN!
SWAM
THE "WHITE-HOT PALM"!
AT FULL POWER, I'LL MELT YOU LIKE BUTTER, GIRL!
WOOSH
SHOOM

CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
ZZMM!
ZZMMM
!?
ZZZZZZZZ
HA, HA, HA... YOU THINK SOME LAST DITCH ELECTRICAL ATTACK WILL AFFECT ME!?
ZZZM
ZZZZZZZZ
WHA--
!?
ZZZZZZZZ
KRAK

KABOOM
SHAAAA
KRAKA ZAPOP
KRNCH

SSSF
IT'S ALL RIGHT, HUGO.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE STILL . ALIVE. STILL... HANGING ON.
YOU'LL LIVE-- I KNOW 'T...
OH, HUGO! DON'T GET SO. . COLD. .
YOU'RE LOSING WARMTH EVERY SECOND. COLDER AND COLDER!
DYING. .I CAN FEEL DEATH SPREADING THROUGH EVERY CELL. .!
HUGO... DON'T JUST FADE AWAY! DON'T LEAVE ME!


OH !
IF ONLY I COULD GIVE SOME OF MY LIFE TO HIM.!!


THAT'S IT !
MAYBE THERE'S A WAY...

RMBRMB

FOOM

KASPLASH
hff
uff
WE'LL BE AT VECTOR'S BUILDING... REAL SOON... HUGO.
!
CHAKMMM
CHAKMMM
CHAKMMM

CHK
KA
EK
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, ALITA!
HEH, HEH HEH..
SLIPPING AWAY WITH A FUGITIVE, ARE YOU ?
THAT'S TREASON, ALITA-- REBELLION AGAINST THE HUNTER-WARRIOR CODE!

HUNTER-WARRIOR ALITA, REGISTRATION NUMBER F33-405..
...I AM FACTORY LAW REMOTE TERMINAL 2. MY SOLE PURPOSE IS TO DESTROY ALL HUNTER-WARRIORS FOUND GUILTY OF INSURRECTION
KACHAK
PITY-- I NEVER THOUGHT THE GREAT ZAPAN WOULD HAVE TO BRING A NETMAN AFTER A COLLEAGUE.
FACTORY LAW
FACTO LAW
.....
JUST SO YOU HAVE NO DELUSIONS OF ESCAPE, I ARRANGED FOR A SPECIAL GUEST ..
...LOOK !
!
L-LET ME DOWN!
I'M AFRAID OF HEIGHTS !

A HOSTAGE. HOW UNDER-HANDED.
I-IDO!
HA, HA, HA! NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION!?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE AND STAY ALIVE!
F-FORGIVE ME, ALITA..
CARRY OUT YOUR SWORN DUTY AS A HUNTER-WARRIOR...
...AND DELIVER HUGO'S HEAD TO THE FACTORY!

I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS! SQUIRM A LITTLE FOR ME, GIRL..
...OR RISK IT ALL FOR LOVE-- AND GET YOURSELF KILLED!
HEE, HEE HEE!
!?
TUGG TUGG

YOU .
YOU KILLED HIM!?
MY GOD! ALITA!?
I CONFIRM THAT SHE HAS FULFILLED HER DUTY!
kaCHEK
HMPH .. WHAT A LETDOWN..
ZAPAN SAID THERE'D BE ACTION! THAT'S CHEAP, MAN...
TMP TMP TMP
LET'S JET!

WHUD
NAH!
SLASH

ALITA.. I THOUGHT YOU LOVED THAT PUNK!

HOW COULD YOU DO IT?
..HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A HUMAN BEING!?
WHERE'S YOUR HEART? IF THIS IS THE REAL ALITA.

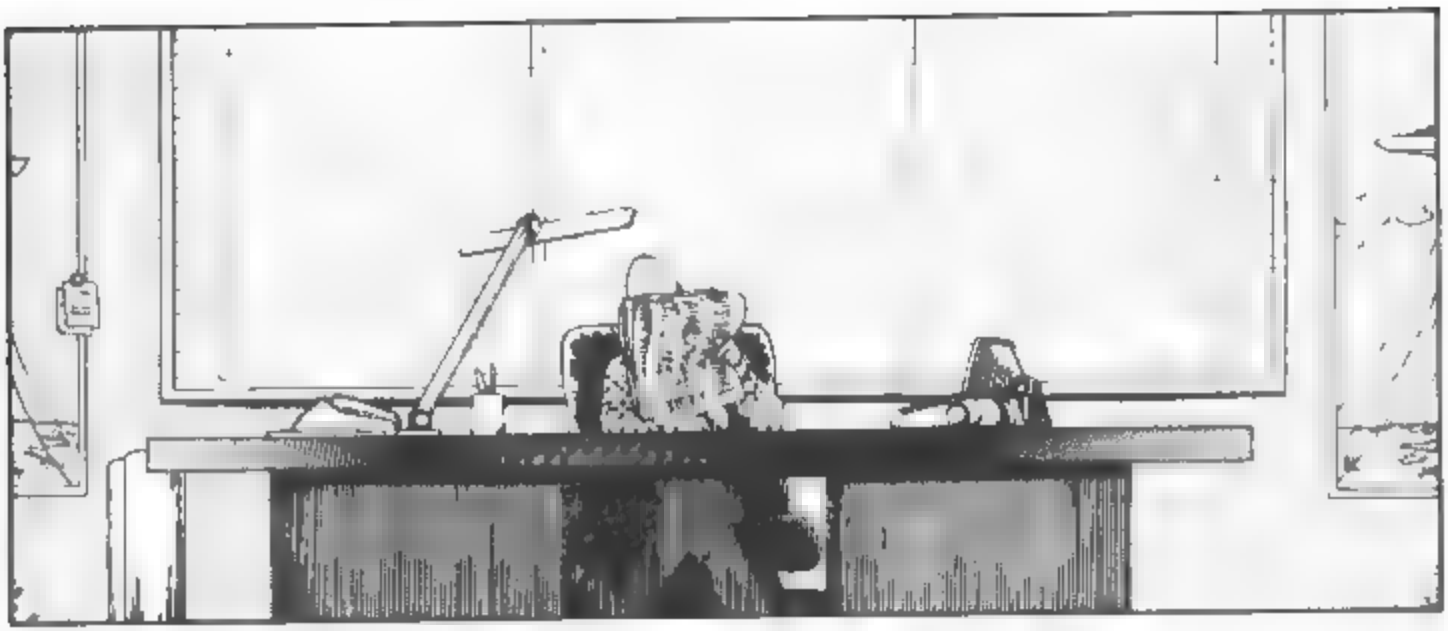
HMPH...
UNH...
HYAHA!
SKSKS
!
SHHHH
AHH!
HA, HA, HA! AND I'LL CRUSH THAT HEAD, TOO!
GIMME THAT!
PAP!

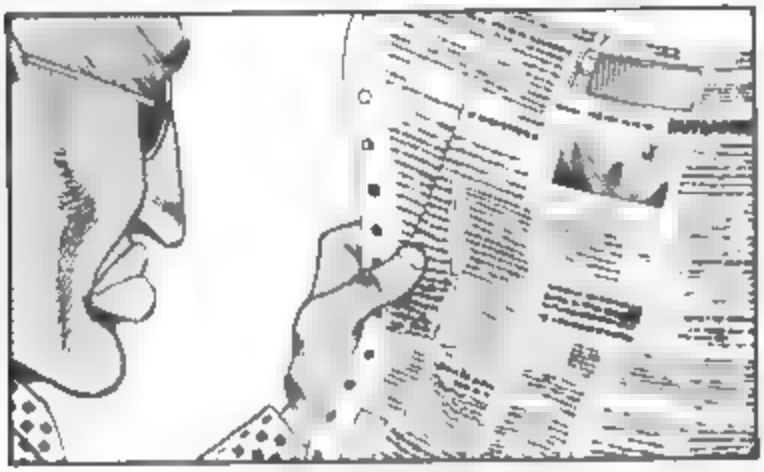
!?
OH, CLEVER GIRL... NOW I SEE...
..TUBES... LEADING FROM ALITA'S CHEST...
..TUBES... CONNECTED TO HUGO'S HEAD.
SO SIMPLE...
THEY'RE SHARING THE SAME LIFE-SUPPORT MECHANISM!
WHICH MEANS THAT HUGO'S BRAIN ISN'T DEAD!
WHAT A PERFECT STRATEGY!

ALERT!
HUNTER-WARRIOR ZAPAN, REGISTRATION NUMBER F44-269!
KCHIK
FACTORY LAW REMOTE TERMINAL
STEALING ANOTHER'S BOUNTY IS AGAINST FACTORY LAW!
NO!
W-WAIT A--
I--!
JOOM
YAAHHH!

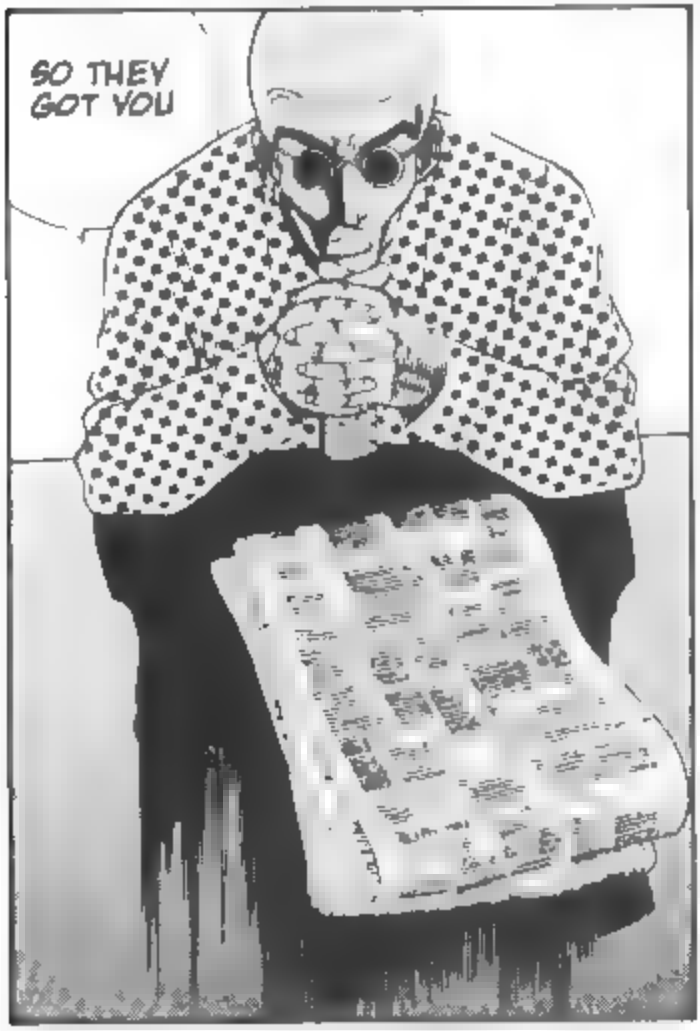
SKRAK

BITTER DREAMS
Struggle 4: Broken Hearts





HUGO

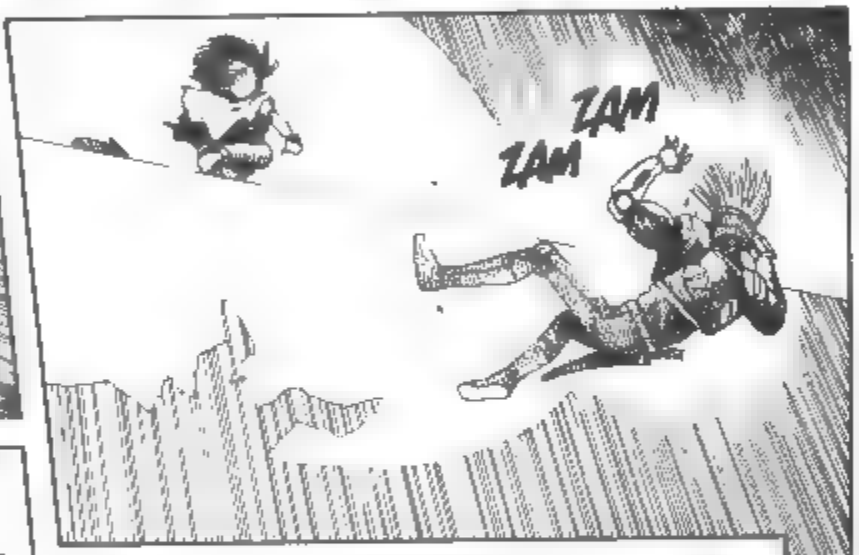

SO THEY GOT YOU

THE HUNTER-WARRIORS
SCRAMBLE FOR THE HEAD
PERPETRATOR OF SPINE-THEFT KILLED...

...LOCAL [illegible] AT REMENDED BY HUNTER-WARRIORS...

LAST NIGHT AT 20:12 NEAR AMMONIA AVE...

...HUNTER ZAPAN TRIED TO STEAL PROOF OF HUNTER ALITA'S BOUNTY, HUNTER ALITA RETALIATED.



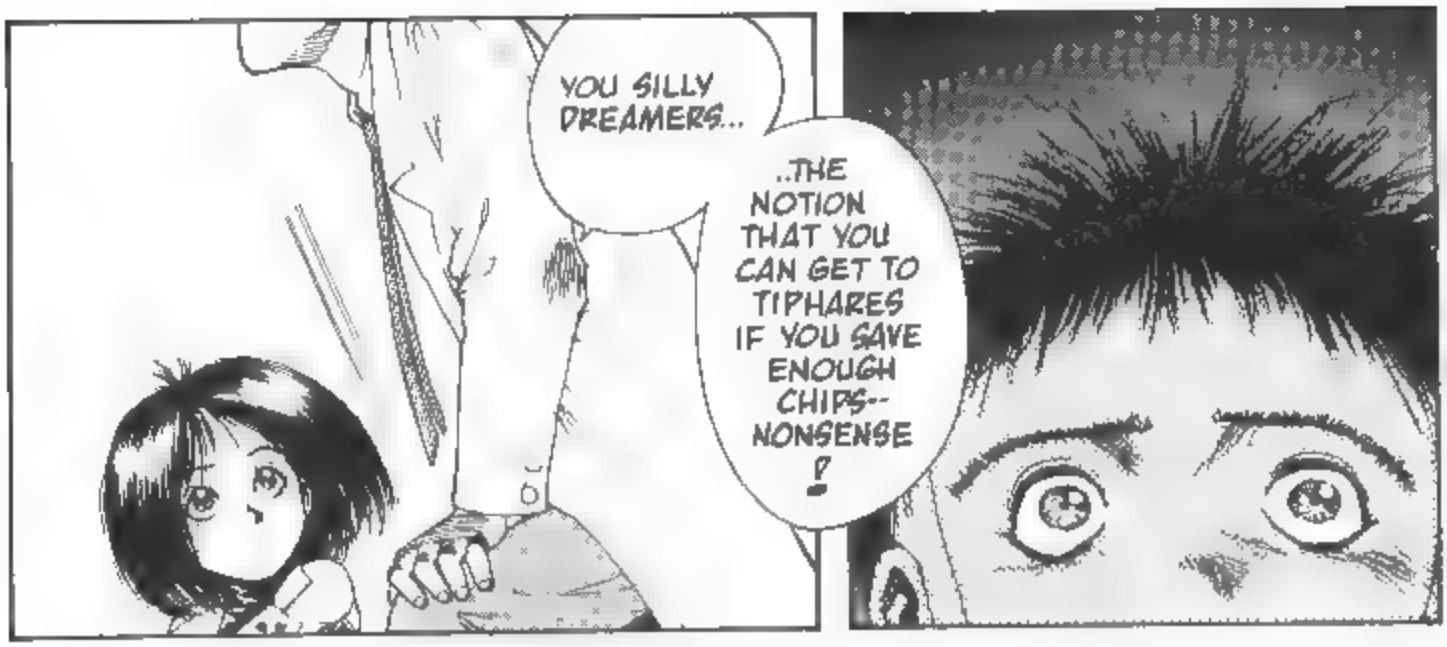
ZAPAN'S FACE WAS DESTROYED, AND HE SLITHERED CLUMSILY, DISAPPEARING INTO THE VALLEY OF BUILDINGS.

ALITA WAS NOT PUNISHED. SHE DID NOT EXCHANGE THE HEAD FOR THE REWARD, SAYING SHE WOULD BURY IT INSTEAD.

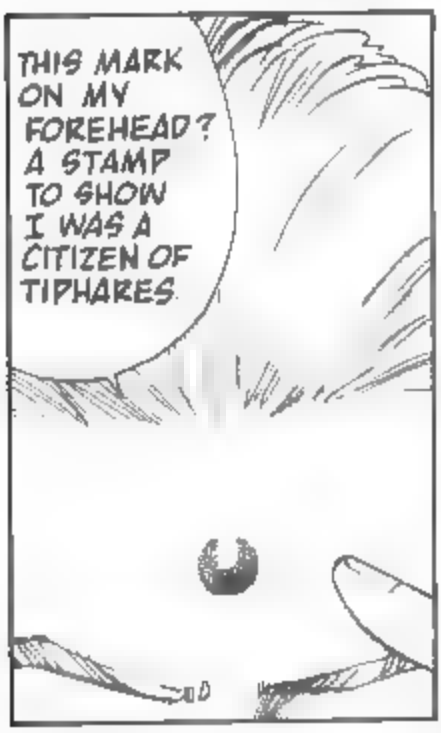
PROCEDURE COMPLETED.
DAISUKE IDO
MECHANIC
I UTILIZED THE BODY OF A CYBORG PATIENT WHO DIED OF A STROKE.
IT'S PERFECT
B-BUT, IDO... ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL RIGHT?
IF ANYONE FINDS OUT YOU REVIVED A BOUNTY HEAD...
OR
YOU'LL KEEP THIS QUIET THEN, EH, GONZU.

OFFICIALLY, THE BOY HUGO IS DEAD...
..SO THAT CYBORG BACK IN SURGERY MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE, YES?
ALL'S WELL, ALITA
CHEER UP NOW, OKAY?
TH-THANK YOU, IDO.
DON'T THANK ME IT WAS YOUR QUICK THINKING THAT SAVED HIM.

IF YOU HADN'T BYPASSED YOUR OWN LIFE-SUPPORT MECHANISM TO HIS NECK...
...HIS BRAIN CELLS WOULD HAVE DIED FROM LACK OF OXYGEN.
BUT IT WAS MY RECKLESSNESS THAT PUT HUGO IN JEOPARDY...
NO--HIS MISTAKE WAS IN BELIEVING HE COULD GET TO TIPHARES.
HE WAS LIED TO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

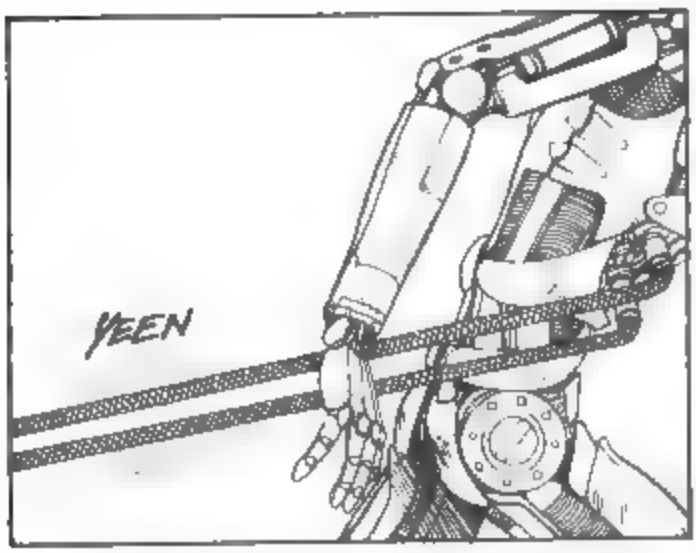

YOU SILLY DREAMERS...
..THE NOTION THAT YOU CAN GET TO TIPHARES IF YOU SAVE ENOUGH CHIPS-- NONSENSE !

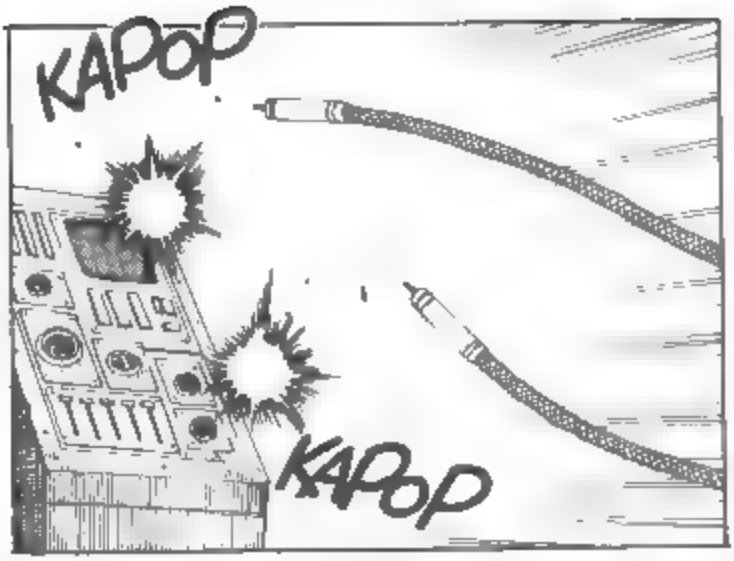
I SHOULD KNOW... I WAS A TIPHAREAN LONG AGO.
I WAS EXPELLED FROM THE FLOATING CITY I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE-- YOU CAN'T GET TO TIPHARES FROM THE GROUND BELOW.

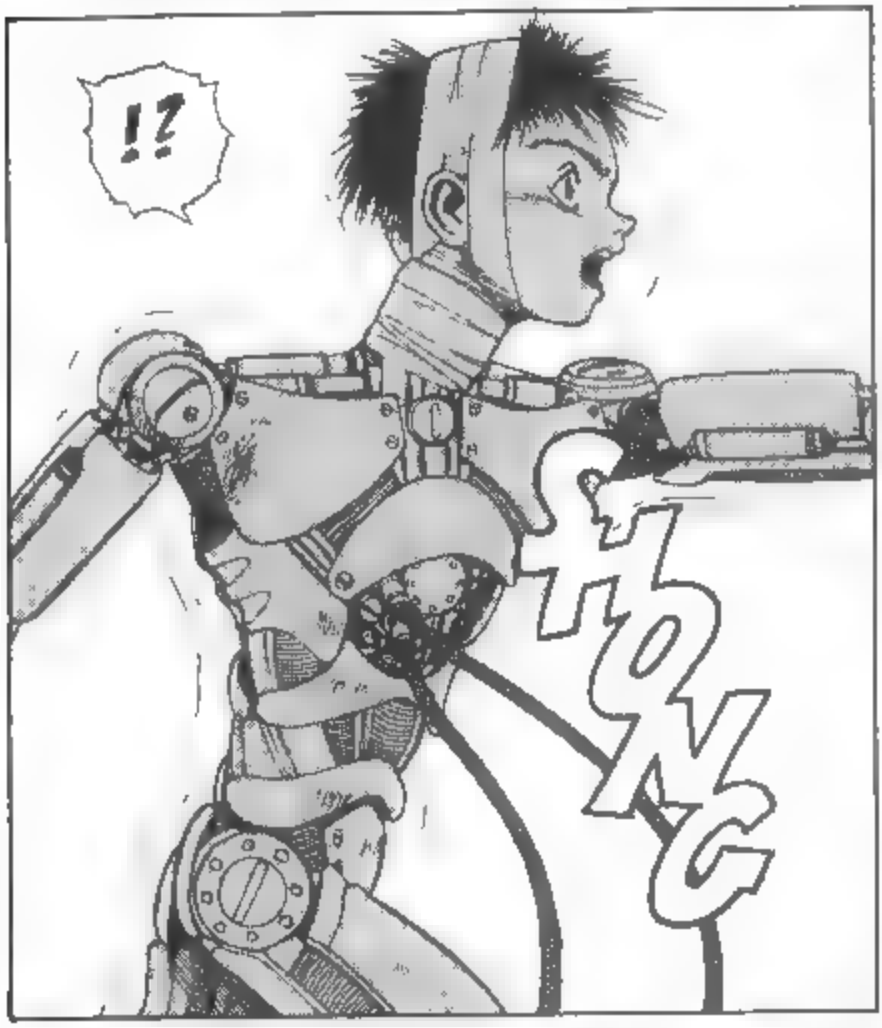

THIS MARK ON MY FOREHEAD? A STAMP TO SHOW I WAS A CITIZEN OF TIPHARES.

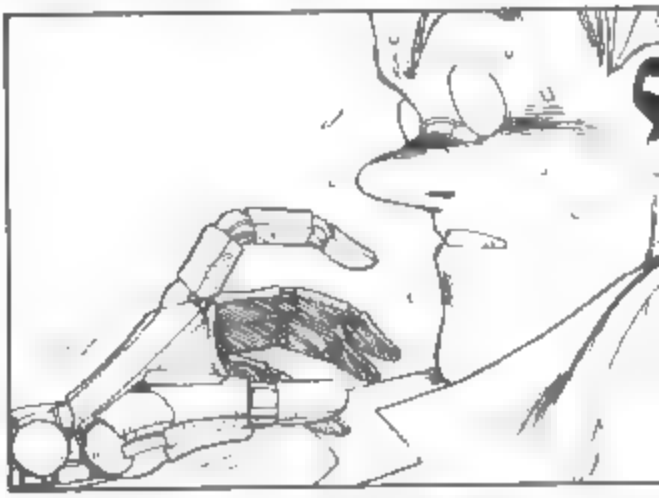
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SOONER. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIDE IT FROM YOU.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
KRANG
YOU LIE, OLD MAN!
HUGO!

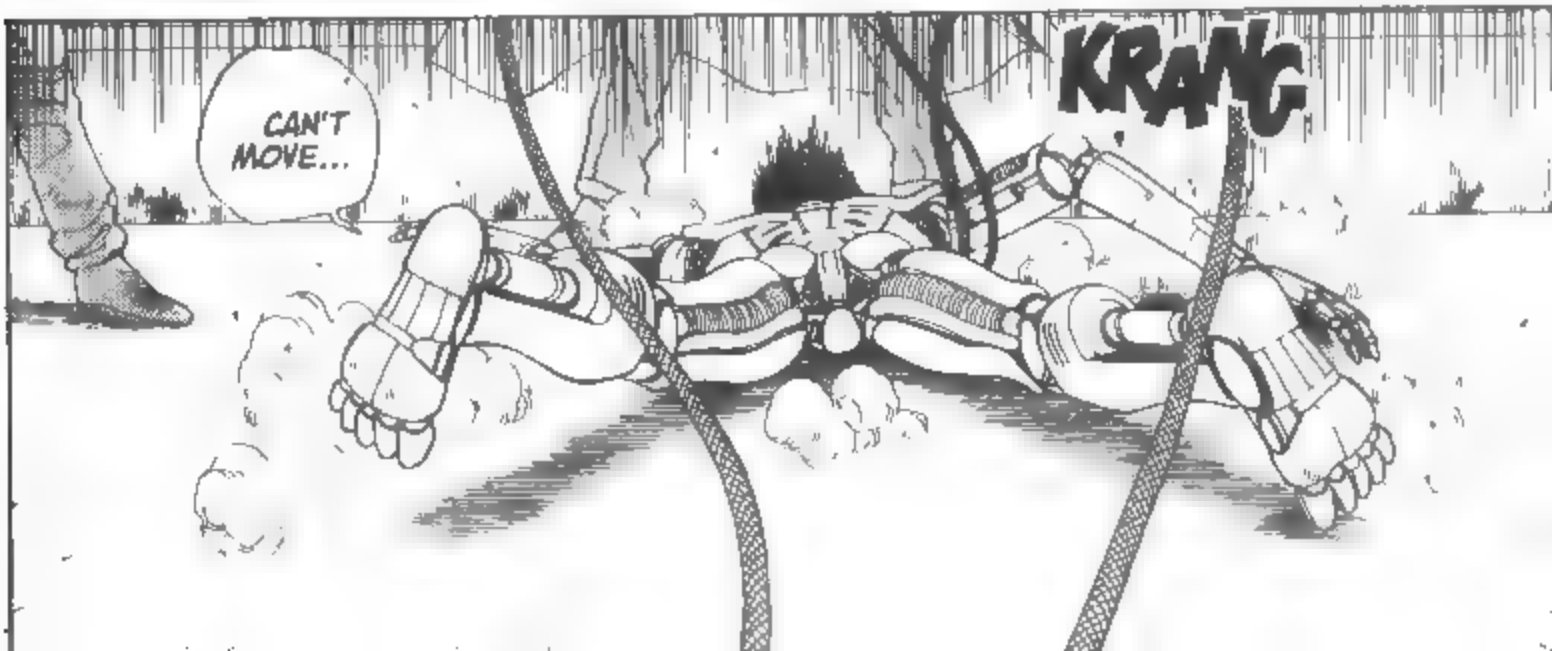

YEEN


KAPOP
KAPOP


!?
SHONG

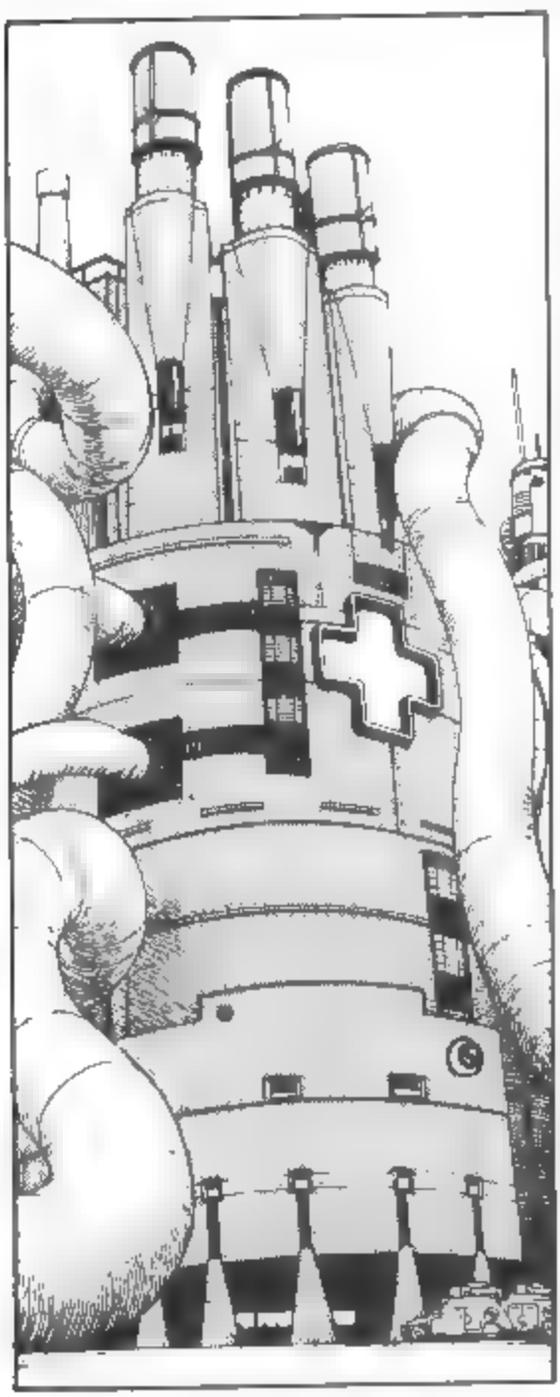


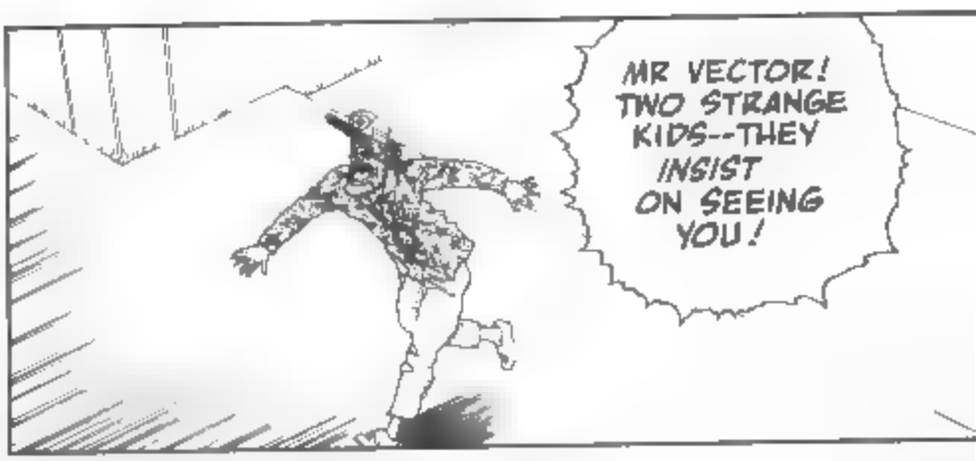
MY BODY...
ungh


CAN'T MOVE...
KRANG

WH WHAT'S GOING ON . ?
IDO !
HE'S NOT HARMED...
.POWER CABLES JUST CAME UNDONE
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, A PATIENT WILL GET VIOLENT, SO I HAVE THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED EXTERNALLY WHILE THEY'RE HERE IN MY CARE.
ALITA, WHERE'S MY STASH ?
RIGHT HERE, HUGO.
THANK GOD.
CHING!
IDO, FIX HIM UP SO HE CAN MOVE ON HIS OWN...
ALL RIGHT... BUT. .
WE'VE GOT TO GO TO VECTOR'S PLACE AND FIND OUT THE TRUTH!

AND IF IT TURNS OUT HE WAS LYING TO HUGO...
!

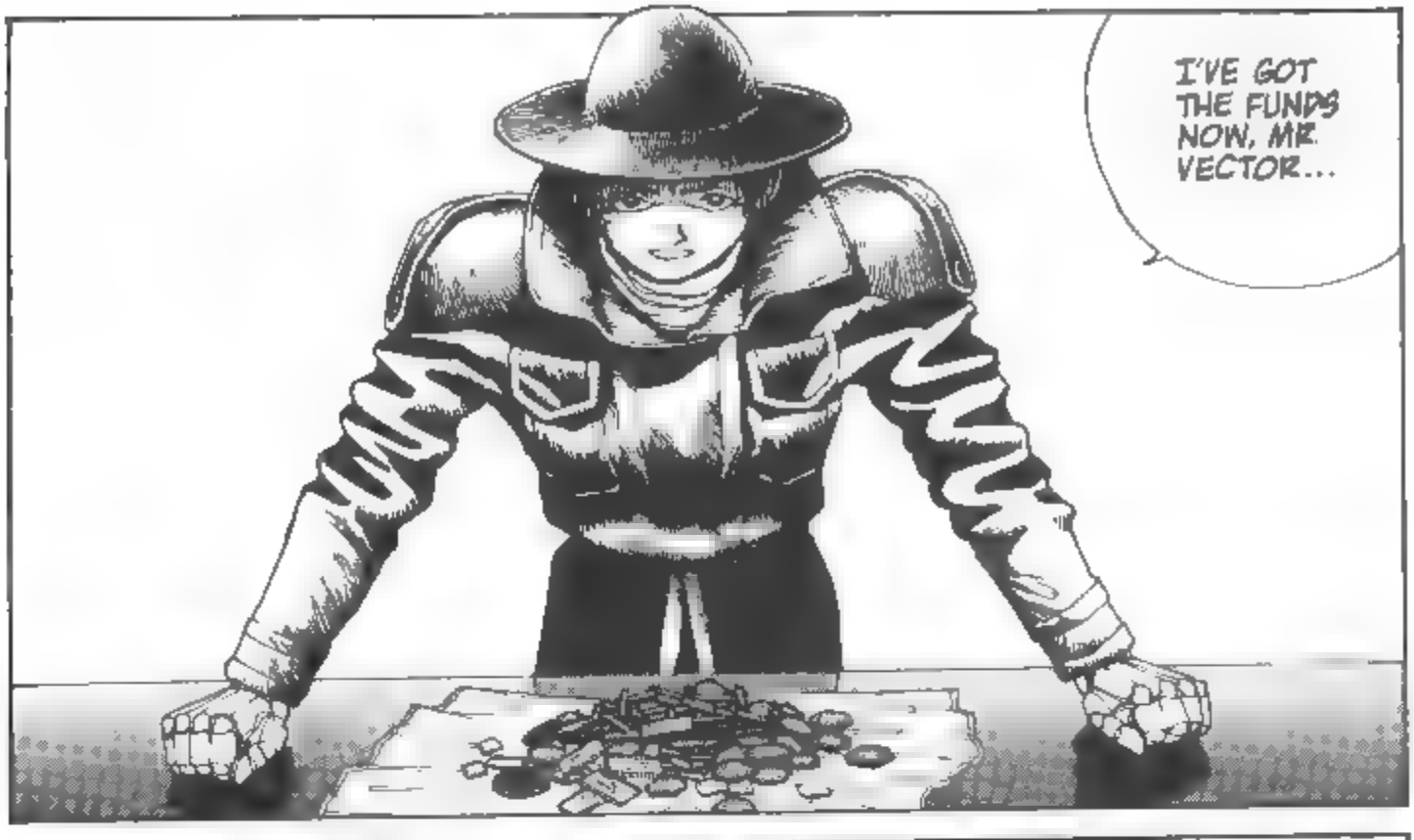


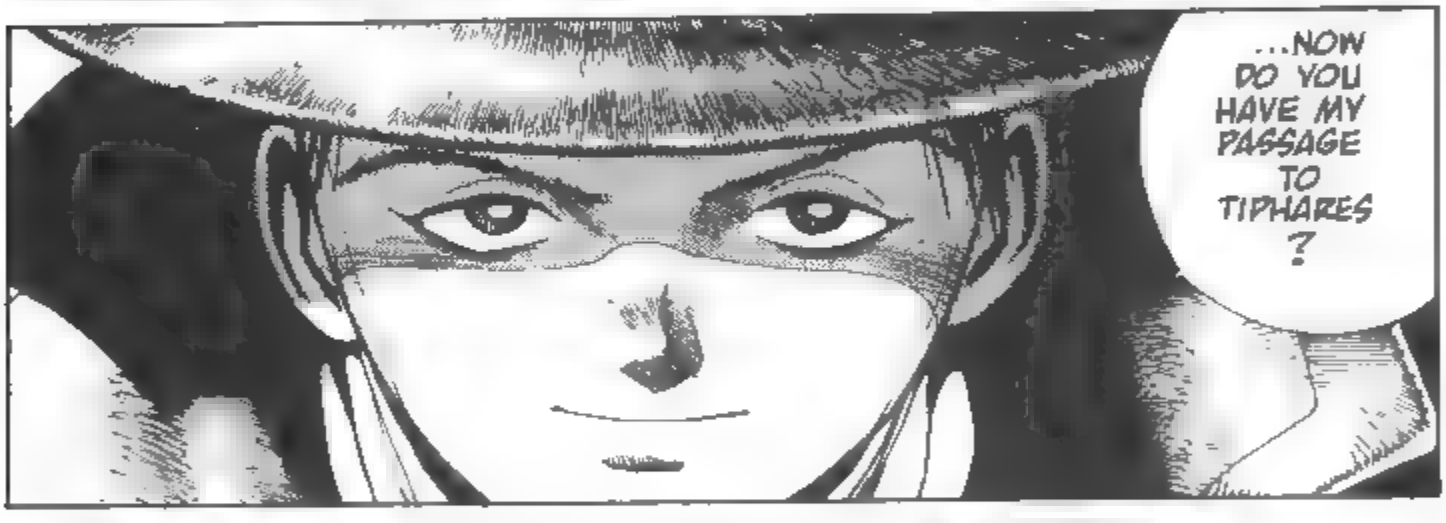

MR VECTOR! TWO STRANGE KIDS--THEY INSIST ON SEEING YOU!

I'M WORKING. GET RID OF THEM
WHUD

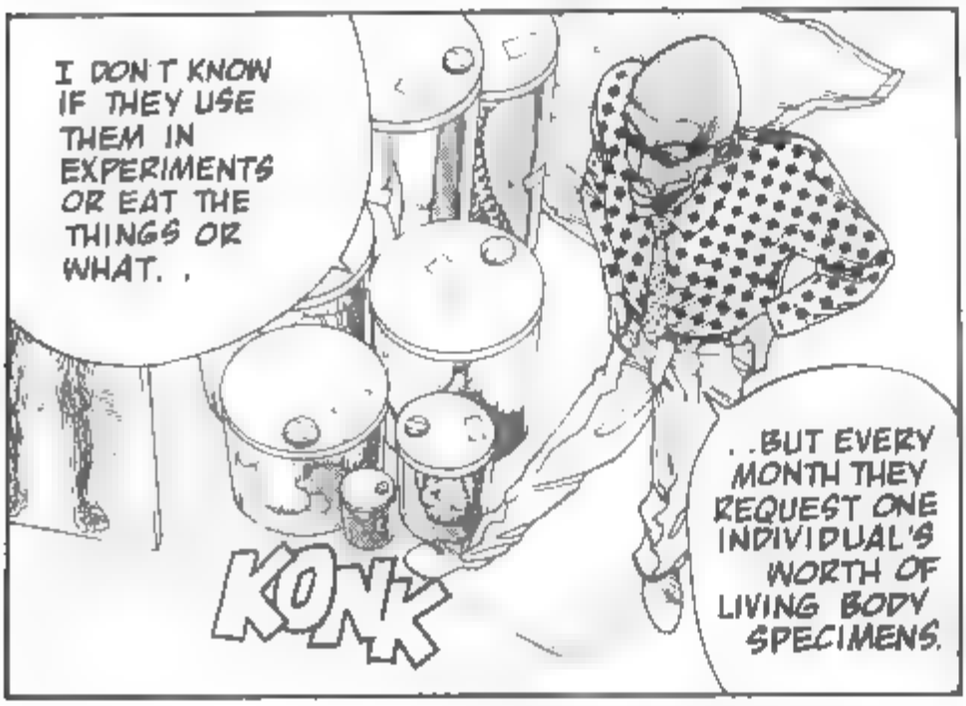
!?
THUMP

IT'S ME, MR. VECTOR
HUGO !?
YOU'RE ALIVE, BOY !?
.....
KACHING


I'VE GOT THE FUNDS NOW, MR. VECTOR...


...NOW DO YOU HAVE MY PASSAGE TO TIPHARES?

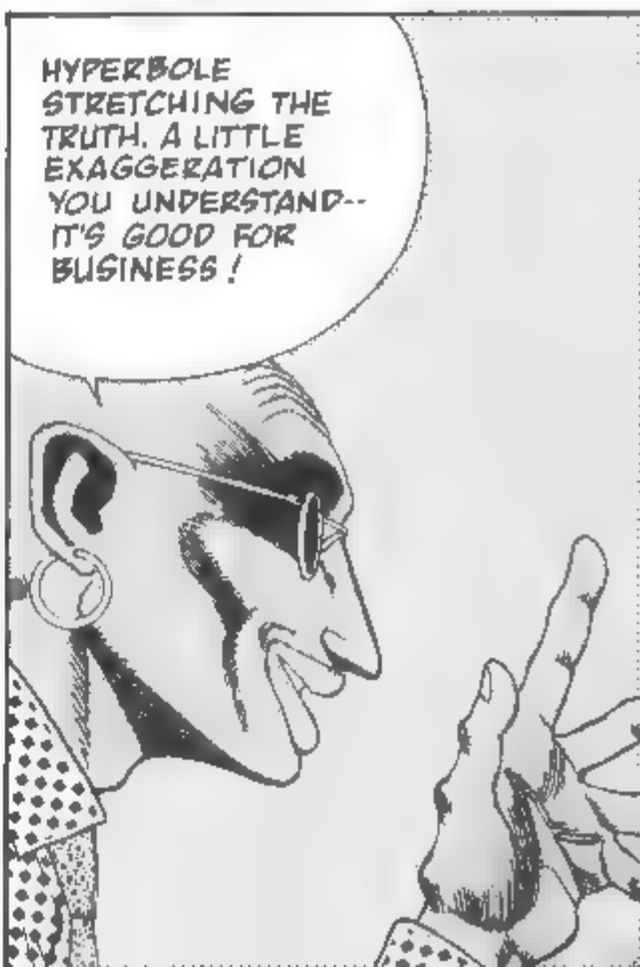
HEY, HEY-- HOLD UP, BOY...
...YOU GOT A PLAN ONCE YOU GET THERE?
I'LL BECOME A BEGGAR.
NOW THINK ABOUT IT, BOY! I'M OFFERING YOU A FACTORY RELAY ROUTE--
MY MIND IS MADE UP!
HMPH! HOPELESS..
ALL RIGHT, THEN I CAN SHIP YOU UP TO TIPHARES--
--BUT ONLY LIKE THIS!
SHAKA


I DON'T KNOW IF THEY USE THEM IN EXPERIMENTS OR EAT THE THINGS OR WHAT. .
KONK
. .BUT EVERY MONTH THEY REQUEST ONE INDIVIDUAL'S WORTH OF LIVING BODY SPECIMENS.

SO YOU WERE PLANNING TO TAKE MY TEN MILLION CHIPS AND CUT ME INTO TINY PIECES?

OF COURSE NOT, HUGO!
I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D GIVE UP IF I ASKED FOR SOME OUTRAGEOUS SUM.

AND THE STORY THAT YOU'VE BEEN TO TIPHARES ?


HYPERBOLE STRETCHING THE TRUTH. A LITTLE EXAGGERATION YOU UNDERSTAND-- IT'S GOOD FOR BUSINESS!

IN SHORT, VECTOR..
...YOU CONNED ME. AND I WAS AN EASY MARK.
HOW COULD YOU !?
HEY! NOW DON'T GET ANGRY ON ME, HUGO...
...AFTER ALL, IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT. NAIVELY THINKING SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD GET TO TIPHARES...
HEY !
TMP
YOU BACK OFFA ME! I GOT WAYS TO DEAL WITH YOUR KIND!
YOU EVER HEARD OF.. ZAARIKI !?

KRAAAAAA
YAAHR!
KILL
KRAAAAAA
DISPOSE OF THESE WHELPS, ZAARIKI!
I'VE PUT THE COLISEUM'S REIGNING CHAMPION ON MY PAYROLL...
...SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE MADE INTO MINCEMEAT-- GET LOST!
GŌMAD
TUP TUP
THE BIG GUY IS MINE, HUGO
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH VECTOR..
TWUP

GSMAD
GRRAWRGH!
SKRAK
KANG
GAH!
SKR SKR SKR SH
?!

I-I CAN'T LIFT MY ARM..
GSMAD
...JUST BECAUSE THIS LITTLE SQUIRT IS STEPPING ON IT ?!
GA!
GH!
GUARR!
GSMAD
SKA
TASH
SKA
TASH
FREE AT LAST!
GSMAD
NOW FACE THE MIGHTY "DANCE OF THE SABATO CRAB"!

WHAT NOW...?!
SHASH
KBOINK
SPOCK
PLORP
AIEEEE!

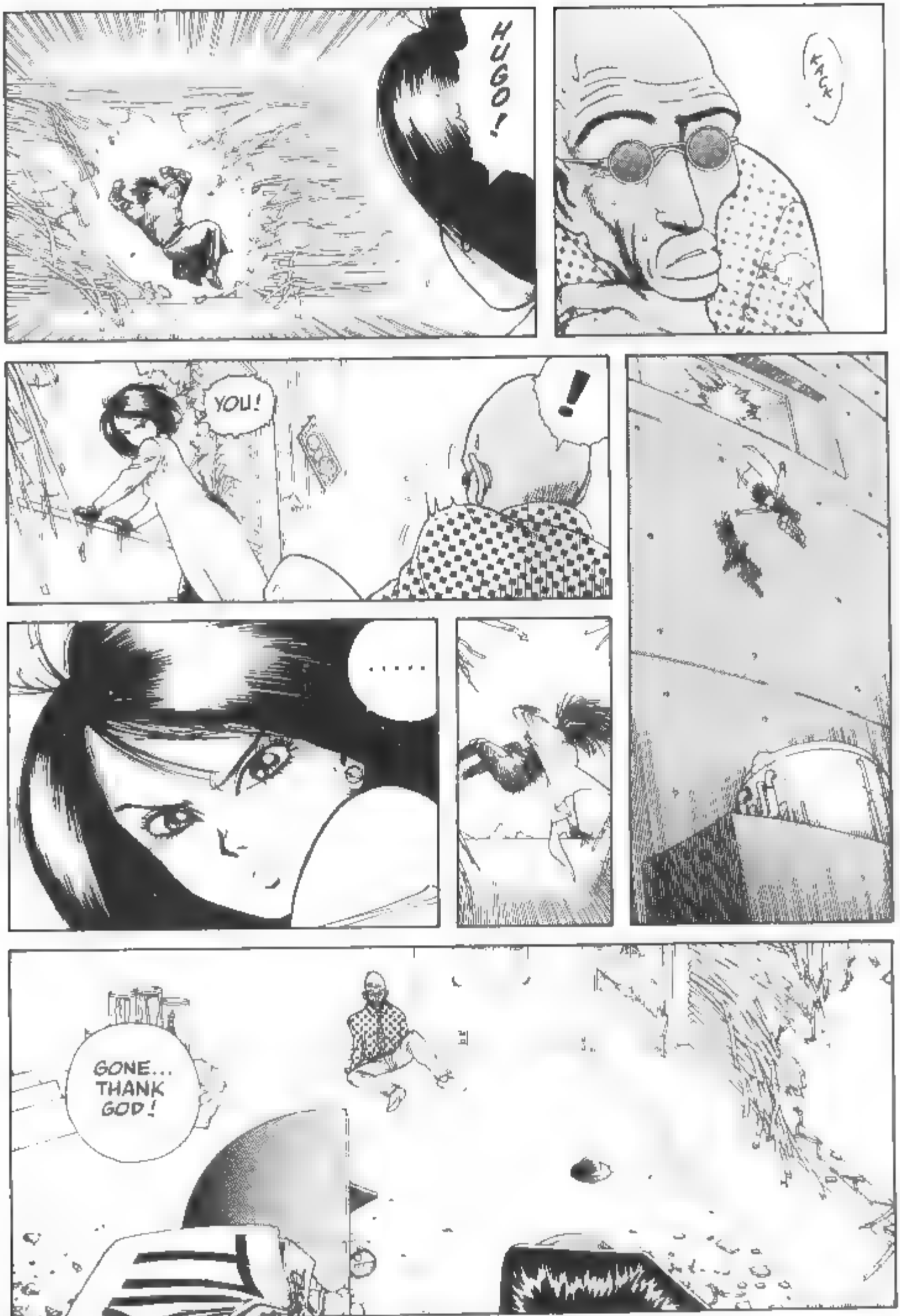
SKK
GAH!
WHUD
SKUUK

BEYOND THE CLOUDS
Struggle 5: Lost Lives
SO, IT WAS ALL...
...JUST...
...A LIE...
SKRUNK
GAH.. GLAH.

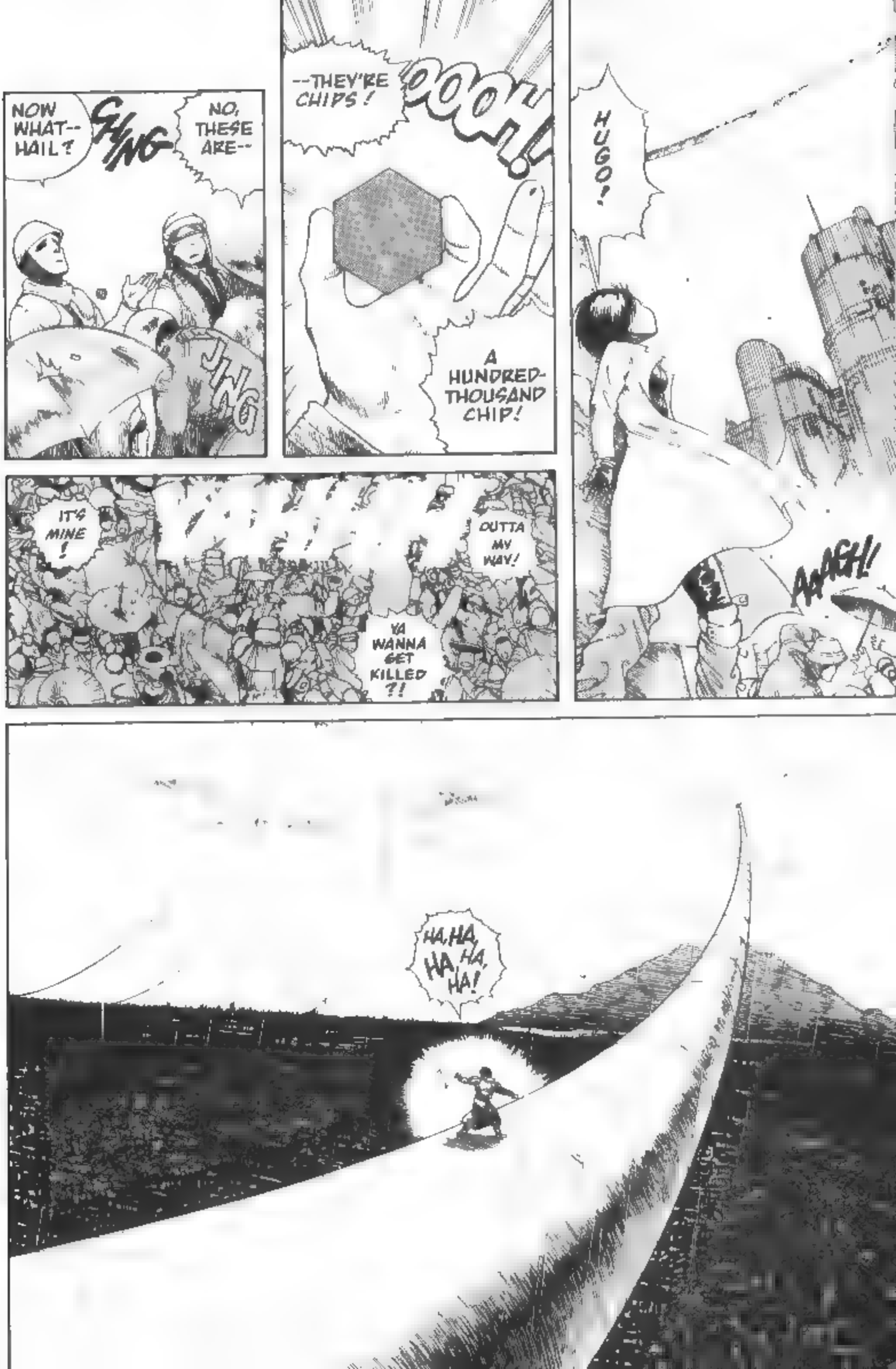
:SNORT!:
HEE HEE
FWUP
TOP
HA, HA, HA, HA... SAY IT AIN'T SO, WILL YA?
:KOFF:
HUGO, I...
IT'S JUST TOO CRUEL...
HEE, HEE, HEE...
FUP FUP
HA, HA, HA, HA... JUST TOO MUCH... HA...TO BEAR...
H-HUGO... PLEASE, STOP!

HAH, HEE, HEE... WHO'S HUGO? THAT JOKER'S DEAD...
HEH HEH
LOOK !
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
THAT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HUGO...
THESE CHIPS--HIS ENTIRE SOUL, THE IDIOT!
HA, HA. HA, HA, HA
AND WHAT GOOD ARE CHIPS IN TIPHARES-- USELESS!
HUGO'S A LOSER--AND THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HIM!
Jing
Jing

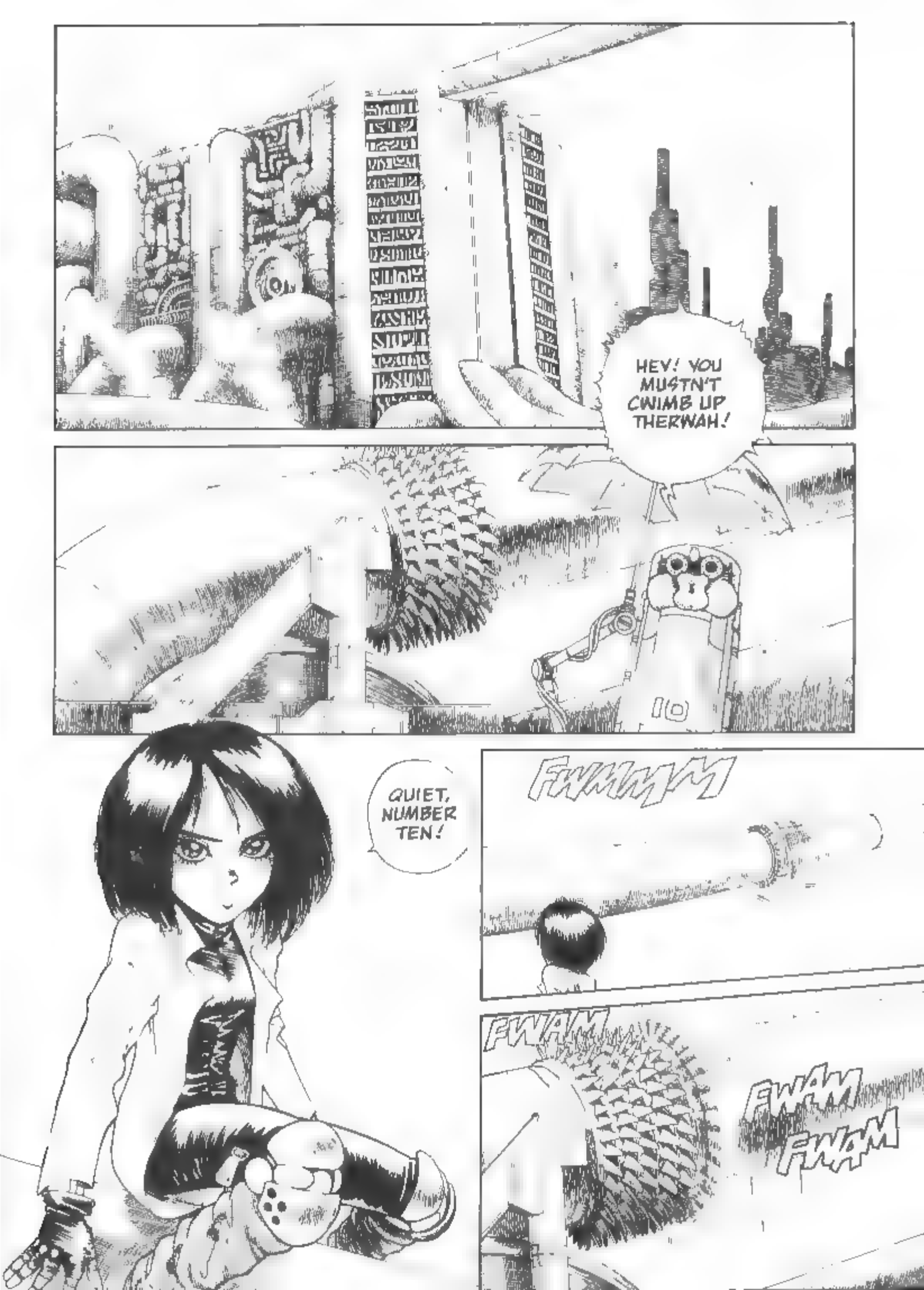
NO, HUGO-- YOU'RE WRONG !
MAYBE YOU CAN'T GO TO TIPHARES, BUT TOMORROW WILL COME...
...PLEASE, LET'S START OVER AGAIN-- TOGETHER, THIS TIME!
TOMORROW, ALITA ..?
TOMORROW IS USELESS--
--TO A DEAD MAN!
KAKRE-!


HUGO!
KACK
YOU!
!
.....
GONE... THANK GOD!

RAIN-- AGAIN ?
DAISUKE 100, MECHANIC
SPLIP
PIP
SUCH A LOT OF RAIN THESE DAYS...
SHAAA
FWAP
DAMN! I LOST HIM!
SHAAAAA
HOW COULD I BE SO STUPID !
CHAK
OUCH!
FACK


NOW WHAT-- HAIL?
CHNG
NO, THESE ARE--
JNG
--THEY'RE CHIPS!
OOH!
A HUNDRED-THOUSAND CHIP!
HUGO!
AAAGH!
IT'S MINE!
OUTTA MY WAY!
YA WANNA GET KILLED?!
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!

I'M COMING FOR YOU, TIPHARES!
THERE'S NO STOPPING ME--YOU HEAR?
WHOOSH
WHA--?!
FWMMM
FWMMMM
!
FWMMMM


HEY! YOU MUSTN'T CWIMB UP THERWAH!
QUIET, NUMBER TEN!
FWWWWM
FWAM
FWAM FWAM

THOSE FINS--WHAT ARE THEY?
FUM
FUM
FUM
OH, JUST THE DEFENSIVE, WAT-WETUWNER WINGS..
THEY'RE DWOPPED FROM TIPHARES EVERY TIME A WAT CWIMBS FIVE HUNDWED FEET!
SKUT
TUT TUT
HE CWEARED SIX-- A NEW WECORD!
HOW FAWAH CAN HE CWIMB ?!
I'VE GOT TO BRING HIM BACK
TOK

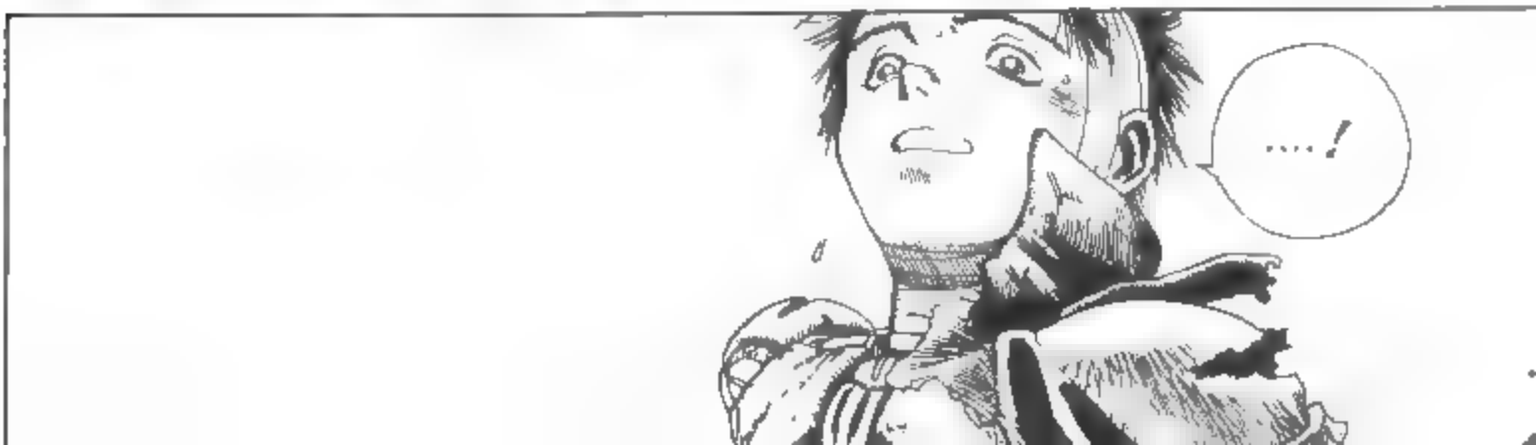
SKIK
UNGH.
CLEEK
SKREEK
SKIK
SAAAAAAAA

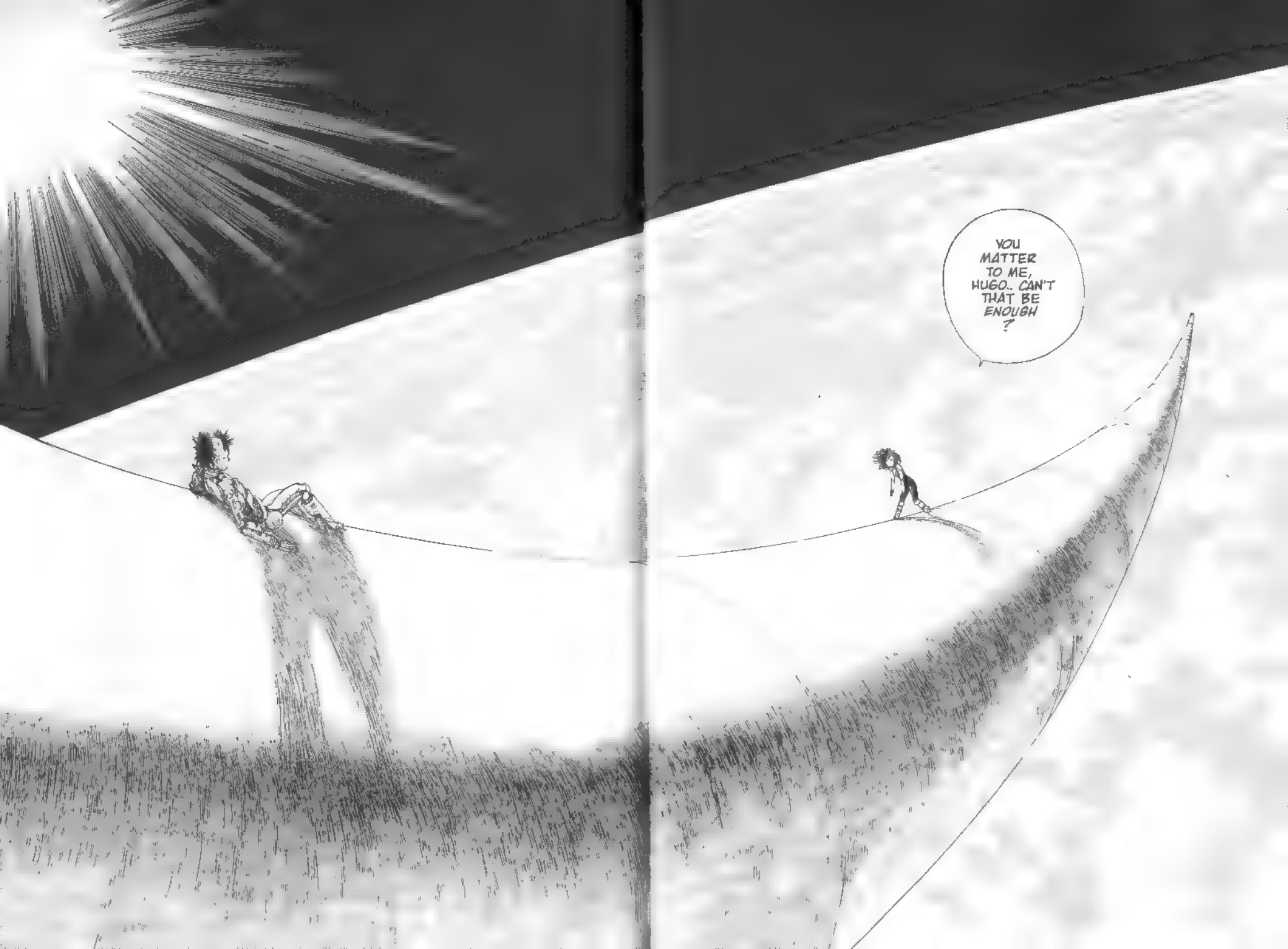
TIPHARES...
...I'M HERE.. AT LAST.
RMBRMBRMB
I'M YOUR GREATEST LOVER, TIPHARES! FOR YOU, I LOST EVERYTHING !
HA, HA, HA BUT NOTHING CAN MATCH YOUR MAJESTY-- CAN IT ?
HUGO !

ALITA..
COME HERE. .
.COME BACK WITH ME. .
BACK DOWN ?
NEVER !
THAT SCRAPYARD ALMOST KILLED ME, ALITA !
TIPHARES IS WHERE I BELONG NOW !

NO, HUGO..
I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS!
ON THE WAY UP, IT FINALLY HIT ME, ALITA...
...AND NOW, AT LAST, I SEE..
.I WASN'T MEANT FOR THIS WORLD, WAS I?
IT HAS NO NEED OF ME-- NEVER HAS..
COWARD!

THE SCRAPYARD AND TIPHARES AREN'T THE ONLY WORLD!
DON'T BE FOOLED BY THEIR LIES, HUGO!

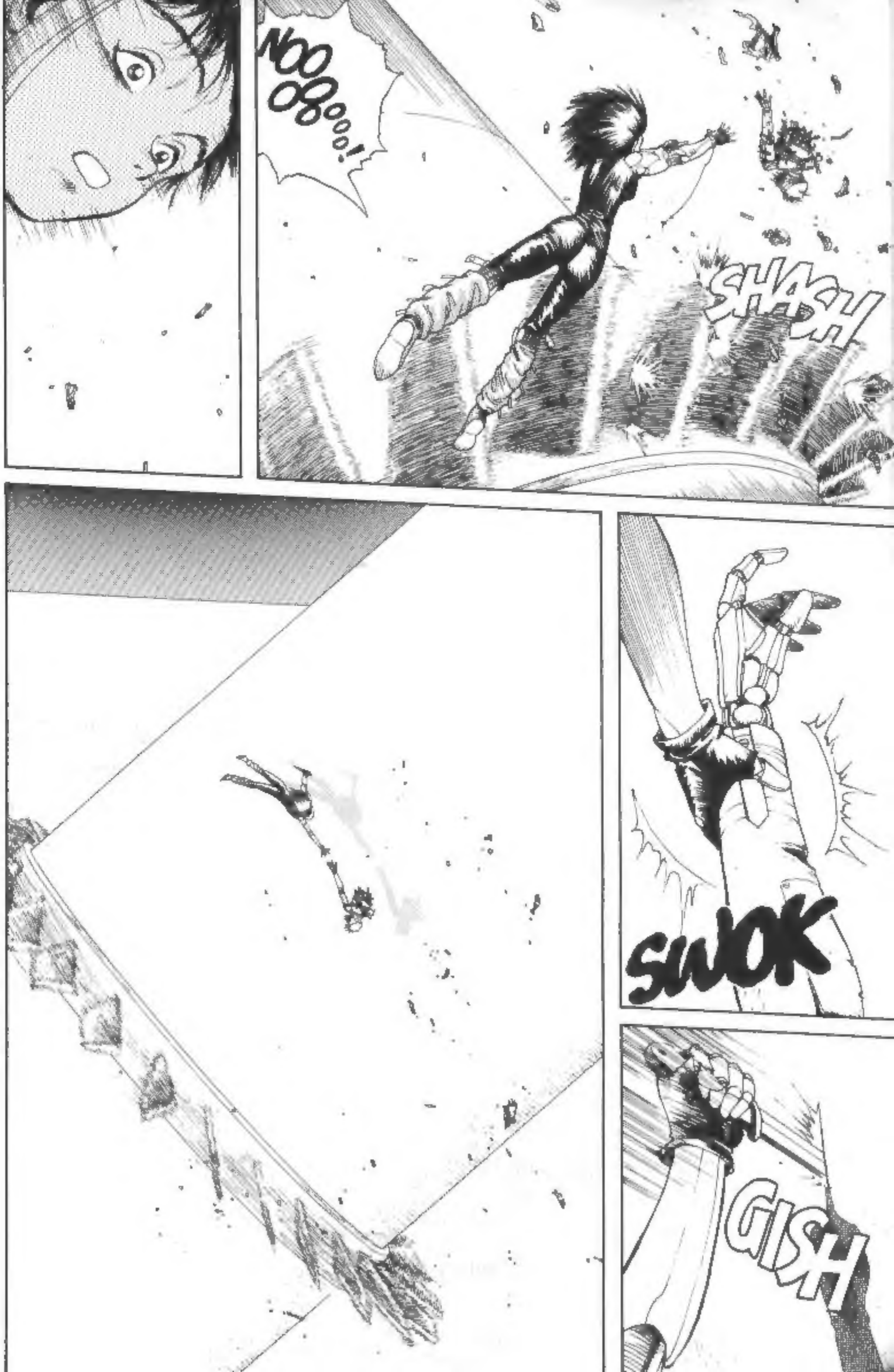

....!


YOU MATTER TO ME, HUGO.. CAN'T THAT BE ENOUGH ?

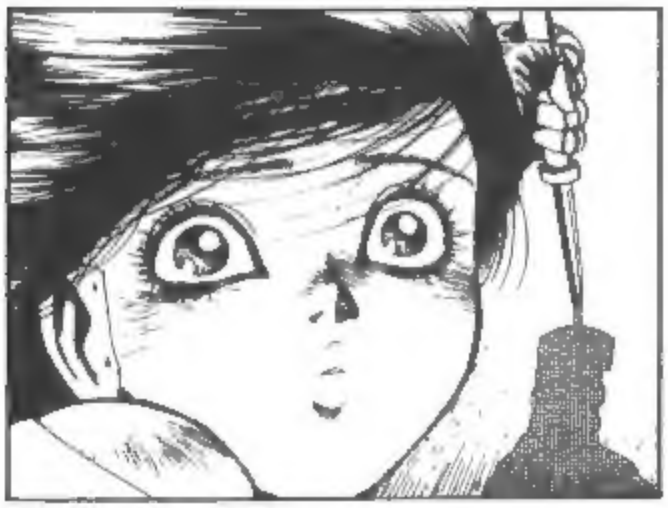
. . . . .
LET'S TRY... TOGETHER...
..I KNOW WE CAN FIND A WAY!
OKAY..

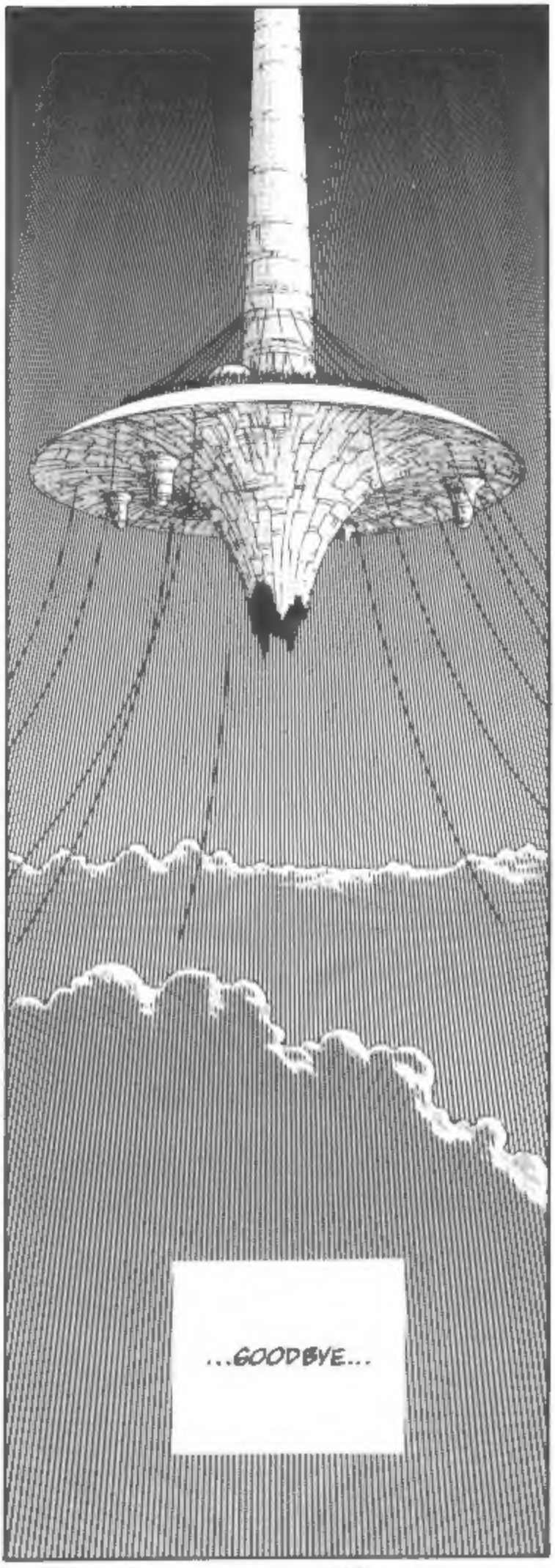
I'VE DONE IT--
--PULLED BACK HUGO'S HEART FROM THE LURE OF TIPHARES!
HE'S MINE-- AND I'LL NEVER LET YOU HURT HIM AGAIN!
OH!
HUGO-- LOOK OUT!
WWW

SKLASH!


NOOOOO!!
SHASH
SWOK
GISH

!
SKRRIPP
AT LEAST WE HAD THE CHANCE TO SAY...
...GOODBYE...





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